



**Volume 65, No. 11
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2025 Officers:

Carol Breiter,
President
(916) 729-7644
carollikestoswim@aol.com

James C. Juanitas,
Immediate Past President
(916) 600-4930
jcjuanitas@aol.com

Paul G. Ruud, Vice
President
(530) 886-8806
paulgruud@gmail.com

Jean Breiter,
Secretary

George W. Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Ron Grove,
Program Director
(916) 397-0678
rgrove916@outlook.com

Joseph A. Matalone, MAL
(916) 837-7616
0425jam@comcast.net

VACANT
Member-at-Large

VACANT,
Editor

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com

Kim Knighton, Webmaster
kimknighton@sbcglobal.net

Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



President's Message

My sincere apologies for not sending an October President's Message on time. It resulted in delaying the Battle Cry Newsletter. I also think my neglect effected our very low attendance at the October meeting. I will try not to let it happen again. Also, I hope to change my email as soon as I can find one with a format that is to my liking. I'll keep everyone posted.

It's been a tradition that we have a trivia contest for our December meeting. Last year, if I remember correctly, the high score was around 15ish out of 25. I had a gentleman from back East that wanted the quiz. If I can get a hold of him, I'd like to challenge him and/or his group to a friendly competition! Your thoughts would be most appreciated.

Carol Breiter, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 12

MEMBERS – 9: Carol Breiter, President; James Juanitas – Immediate Past President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Steve Breiter, Marsha Cain-Jutovsky, Matthew Jutovsky, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, & Stephen Shiflett.

GUESTS – 3: David & Denise Continenza, & David McKie.

ZOOM – 0:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Carol Breiter at 7:00 PM and she led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Breiter shared this day in history. In 1840, the first Constitution of the now State of Hawaii. In 1862, the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky by Union General Don Carlos Buell and Confederate General Braxton Bragg. In 1871, the Chicago Fire, Michigan Fire, and Great Lakes' Fires. In 1918, the Argonne Offensive in the Great War on the entire Western Front. In 1956, Don Larson's perfect game five in the World Series won by the New York Yankees over the Brooklyn Dodgers in seven games. In 2001, the United States Homeland Security Department was established due to September 11, 2001.
3. President Breiter introduced new members and guests. No new members but we had three guests.
4. There was no old business. Announcement: THIRD CENTRAL COAST CONFERENCE – will be held May 1 - 3, 2026 in Monterey, California, "Seldom Heard History of the Civil War."
5. The Raffle was conducted by Steve Breiter. Thanks to members and guests, the Raffle collected \$21.00.
6. President Breiter introduced the speaker, James Juanitas. His topic was "United States Navy During the Civil War." Speaker Juanitas discussed a few topics and he focused on the courage and bravery of Admiral David G. Farragut while running the torpedoes in Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864.
7. After discussions and questions, the evening ended at 7:58 PM.
8. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Jean Breiter, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on October 8th was \$4,981.76. Thanks to members, guests, and Steve Breiter, the raffle brought in \$21.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2025 & 2026

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 12th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Phil Sheridan"
December 10th	"Ron Grove"	"Civil War Trivia Game"
January 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
February 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
April 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2026 Membership

The 2026 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2026. 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:

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 Round Table or the Editor. The official address of this Round Table 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

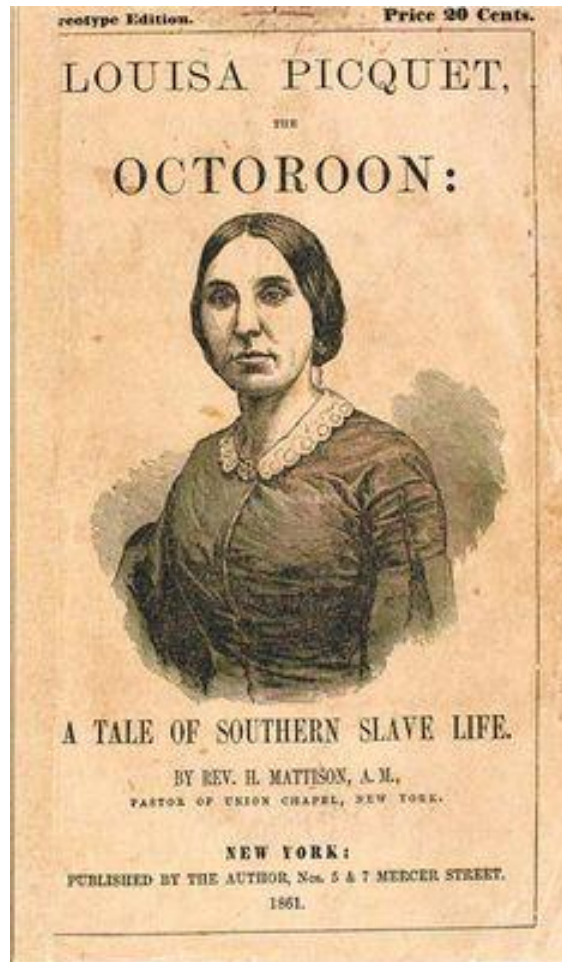
The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) is a group of individuals interested in the Civil War history of Alcatraz island. We are made up of teachers, veterans, historians, and others who like to research and read about how Alcatraz became an important Fort for the protection of San Francisco during 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.

Louisa Ramsey Picquet

Born in 1828 or 1829 in Columbia, South Carolina
Died August 11, 1896 in New Richmond, Ohio



In honor of Mother's Day, SWCW presents the story of a courageous woman who persevered in the face of incredible odds to rescue her mother from slavery.

Louisa Ramsey was the daughter of Elizabeth Ramsey, an enslaved teenager, and Elizabeth's enslaver, John Randolph. Louisa's date of birth was not recorded. Louisa bore a striking resemblance to Randolph's infant daughter by his wife, and thus he sold Elizabeth and Louisa when the latter was two months old.

Their new enslaver was David Cook, who moved them to Mobile, Alabama, and rented out Elizabeth (and later, Louisa) as domestic servants in a

boarding house. Due to Cook's mounting debts, Louisa was sold at auction at the age of thirteen to John Williams of New Orleans, while her mother was sold to Texan Colonel Albert Horton. The separation was devastating for the mother and daughter.

In New Orleans, Louisa was the housekeeper and sex slave for Williams. She gave birth to four children before the age of 18, but only one, her daughter Elizabeth, survived infancy. In 1847, Louisa and her child were emancipated upon the death of Williams. They moved to Cincinnati, Ohio.

To support herself and her daughter, Louisa found employment as a domestic servant. She met a freedman named Henry Picquet, who was raising his daughter Harriet. They married in 1850, and welcomed two more children into their family, Sarah and Thomas. Louisa was happy in her marriage, but felt her family was not complete without her mother, and she set out to find her.

Louisa located her mother in 1858. Colonel Horton conveyed that he was willing to emancipate Elizabeth for the sum of \$1,000 -- which is the equivalent to \$36,800 today. Louisa was determined to raise the money. She travelled across the Northeast soliciting donations from churches and abolitionist societies. She arrived in New York City in 1860, and made the acquaintance of the Reverend Hiram Mattison, an abolitionist minister with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mattison was taken with Louisa's life story and her mission to free her mother, and believed that publishing her story would help raise the remaining funds.

Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon: A Tale of Southern Slave Life was published in 1861. Rather than a narrative, it is a series of Louisa's first-person answers to Mattison's questions, which appear transcribed verbatim, along with his own commentary. Louisa was ultimately successful in freeing her mother and bringing her to Cincinnati prior to the publication of the book. A notice in the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette* on October 15, 1860 announced that Elizabeth Ramsey had safely arrived in the City.

Henry Picquet served in the Union Army during the Civil War while Louisa supported the family as a laundress. In the post-War years, the family moved to New Richmond, Ohio. Henry drew a pension for disability sustained during his service, and after his death, Louisa drew a widow's pension. Louisa died on August 11, 1896 at the age of 70 or 71.

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

The Civil War in Florida: The Service and Death of Major Benjamin C. Lincoln

Angela Zombek, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, July 15, 2024
blueandgrayeducation.org



Major Benjamin Lincoln served in the 2nd USCT, shown here in 1863 at their first camp in Arlington, Virginia

Soldiers who fought in Florida during the Civil War garner comparatively little attention compared to those who fought in major theaters of battle. The service and death of Major Benjamin Lincoln of the 2nd United States Colored Troops (USCT) provides a window into how Union soldiers experienced War in its tropical climate.

On February 22, 1864, Lincoln arrived with the 2nd USCT to garrison Key West, a significant military and commercial outpost that remained in U.S. possession throughout the entire War. Major Lincoln, married not even a year to his beloved wife, Dora, wanted nothing more than for her to join him on the island, as was relatively common for officers' wives. He spent much time, and countless letters, devising plans for her and his brother Alford to journey to Key West despite being short on money to pay for travel. Day after day, Lincoln climbed a parapet at Fort Taylor, looking for the steamer *Nightingale*, which he thought might be carrying his love. Lincoln frequently pined for the War's end and the ability to resume civilian life with his new bride. But he also had ambitions to rise through the ranks and head an independent command.

Lincoln assumed temporary command of Fort Taylor when Colonel John Wilder traveled to Havana, Cuba. While in Command, Lincoln served on courts martial, witnessed the execution of some disobedient soldiers, and served on an examining board to assess officers of the 2nd Florida Cavalry (Union). He also devoted countless hours to



Lt. John Wilder, ca 1863

providing spiritual and educational instruction to soldiers of the 2nd USCT, as well as local Blacks, despite many local civilians' opposition to Black troops. His brother Alford finally arrived at Key West, but Dora did not, and Lincoln vowed to continue writing to her every day.

In February 1865, Lincoln left Key West with Companies E, G, and H of the 2nd USCT with the object of quashing blockade running around the port of Saint Marks on the Florida mainland. At dawn on March 6, 1865, Lincoln led Companies B and G into the fray at the Battle of Natural Bridge, near present-day Woodville, Florida. Here, Lincoln met his fate. Soon after the Battle, instead of opening a letter from her husband as usual, Dora received a letter from Colonel John Wilder of the 2nd USCT, dated March 12, 1865, which described her husband's last hours among the living.

Wilder addressed Dora at Alford's request—Lincoln's brother was too distraught to take up the pen. The letter stated that, amid the Battle, at 1 p.m. on March 6, 1865, a piece of shell from Confederate artillery struck Lincoln in the bowels. He feared the wound was mortal, but hoped to recover on the steamer *Alliance* and remained cheerful as his comrades carried him from the field. Soon, after requesting to eat, Lincoln drifted into permanent sleep as his spirit "calmly and peacefully departed."

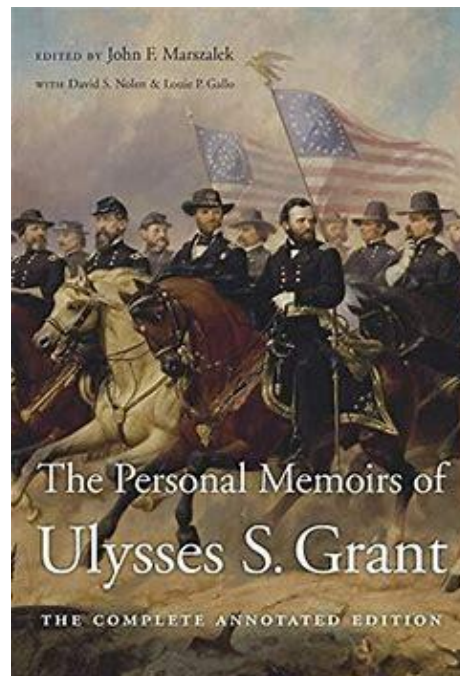
Dora would never again see her new husband since Wilder could not send Lincoln's body home; the undertaker declared he had "been dead too long in the hot climate." Wilder's heart bled as he praised Lincoln for being self-sacrificing, true, and ambitious. He mourned Lincoln's loss, and the irony that "it was his desire to have an independent command, and he received it, alas, only to lay it down again in death."

Submitted by the Blue and Gray Education Association

The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant: The Complete Annotated Edition

By John F. Marszalek, David S. Nolen, Louie P. Gallo, eds. Cambridge, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2017. 816 pp. \$39.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-674-97629-0.

Reviewed by Kyle Vratarich (University of Tennessee Knoxville). Published on H-War (October, 2024). Commissioned by Margaret Sankey.



The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant have been in publication since their original release in 1885, just months after Grant's death from a long bout with throat cancer. In this most recent edition, the editorial staff of John Marszalek, David Nolen, and Louie Gallo has assembled a completely annotated version of this autobiography, a Herculean effort for which we should be grateful.

Grant's narrative remains a masterpiece: "not only a major piece of War literature, but also a classic of all American literature ... the pinnacle of American nonfiction" (p. xxvi). The editorial team maintains as much of Grant's original prose as possible, only cleaning up typographical errors and errata in the main narrative while acknowledging when such steps are taken. Grant's pith, humor, and erudition seep through every page. Much of his humor comes from self-deprecation, which makes the book feel like it was written by an everyman who recognizes his flaws rather than the man

often credited with winning the War that divided the United States. He recalls moments from his life, specifically from his time in combat, down to the day that they occurred with precision as to what was said to whom and where. His battle against cancer as he wrote these memoirs makes his recall and his prose even more incredible, and his dedication to completing this task kept him alive as long as possible, succumbing to his disease but days after he last put pen to paper on this project.

Grant wrote a book in which all readers can find value. His humility in crediting the common man and soldier as often as possible makes the reader feel as if they might have defeated the Confederacy if they were in his shoes. This work is filled with biblical references that served as contemporary pop culture references, and even the nonreligious reader can appreciate his allegorical use of these texts. His respect for those who served is second to none--even those he criticizes for one reason or another are quickly redeemed by an assurance that this was their only flaw and that they were otherwise good men. He dedicated the book to "the American soldier and sailor," and it is clear from his respectful tone throughout for both ally and enemy that he means to dedicate this to all who served in the Civil War, whether they wore blue or grey (p. 2).

The editorial work done by Marszalek and his team is both the novelty and strength of this edition. They continue a recent historiographic trend toward redeeming Grant's reputation, with Ulysses S. Grant Association president Frank J. Williams declaring in the preface that Grant was "a soldier-spouse-father who became a democratic leader and died as a citizen of the world" through whom "the world came to see the meaning of the new American hero" (p. xv). The team has assembled impressive details to bolster Grant's narrative. At the first reference to each person, they present a footnote with a brief but detailed biography, along with suggested additional readings, if applicable. This provides the appropriate context to situate the reader within the story as it progresses. Factual mistakes made by Grant in his original text are retained in the main narrative and corrected instead in the footnotes (187n29, for example). Grant would have likely approved of this choice, as he did quite the same when acknowledging his own mistakes (p. 240), and the editors have a great deal more information available to them than Grant had at the end of the Nineteenth Century. Further, they are candid in acknowledging cases in which records cannot confirm nor deny something Grant claims. For their work, Marszalek, Nolen, and Gallo join Adam Badeau and Grant's own sons as the exemplary aides Grant needed to successfully tell his story.

This book is a treasure trove of information, both from Grant and from the editorial staff. A few additions might improve it even more. Including pictures and maps to show different people and places discussed in this tome would aid the reader, regardless of Grant's inclusion (or lack thereof) in his initial work. The decision to remove the appendix to the original memoir is one that is well made, but perhaps it could be included via digital link so those interested could readily find this material. An afterword by the editors analyzing Grant's postwar career and life may provide more information to readers less familiar with this period and inform them further of some of the dynamics of Reconstruction Grant mentions toward the end of his book. The citations are exquisite and in footnotes so they are available as the narrative progresses, but a "Notable Works Cited" section would be a valuable tool for researchers. Finally, it is difficult to declare any one project as "complete," as something can always be found that would upend this claim. However, given the work done by this editorial team and the detailed records they have at their disposal, there is little room to think that any other project might be more complete.

Even with these critiques, this text deserves readership from a wide audience, both academic and popular. The goal of providing "details that casual readers can use to understand context and that scholarly researchers can use to track down further information" is admirable in the search of the broadest readership possible, and the editors admirably accomplish this task (p. xxvii). Even more exciting is that this is only the first part of a two-part project. While the purpose of this hard copy version of the text is "clarifying the content of Grant's thoughts" as he wrote his memoirs, a later, digitized edition will show the progression of the project from articles in *Century Magazine* to a full memoir (p. xxviii). Once the digitized project is complete, we can better understand not only what Grant wrote, but the process by which he compiled his manuscript, adding a new and exciting dynamic toward the crafting of the complete annotated edition of this American classic.

The editorial staff mention in their acknowledgements that they have tried to do as Grant wrote in his memoirs: "Everyone has his superstitions. One of mine is that in positions of great responsibility everyone should do his duty to the best of his ability" (p. 767). With the publication of this work, they have fulfilled the tall order given by the man at the heart of this project many years ago.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.