



Volume 61, No. 12
December, 2021

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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

Merry

Christmas

&

Happy

New Year

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, November 10, 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 and starts closing at 6:30 PM.
2. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on November 10th was \$4,247.77. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

David Davenport

January 29, 1951 - October 28, 2021

Fresno, California - Dr. David Paul Davenport, 70, of Fresno. David was an active member of the Fresno community, a member of several professional organizations related to History, Geography, Historical Reenactment, Archeology, and Government. Dr. Davenport retired as Professor of History and Geography at both Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno. David received an AA Degree from Coalinga College (now West Hills College), a BA Degree and two MA Degrees from Fresno State University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He authored four works registered with the Library of Congress and dozens of publications in professional journals on history, geography, and genealogy. David was recently recognized by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for his work in the restoration of Liberty Cemetery and his statewide efforts to validate and properly mark grave sites of veterans of the Mexican-American War, Civil War, and World War I. David was also very well known as Santa Dave from Sierra Vista Mall. David was born in Berkeley, CA. He died peacefully in his home surrounded by friends and family after a short and valiant battle with Liver Cancer.

David was a longtime re-enactor and member of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. He also helped plan and participated in many West Coast Civil War Round Table Conferences over the years, both in Fresno and Sacramento.

David is survived by his mother Ruth, his brother Kendell, nephews George and Jonathan, and his beloved niece Lucille, all of Coalinga, California. He was predeceased by his father, Reverend Charles R. Davenport of Coalinga.

Internment service at Pleasant Valley Cemetery, 40054 Calaveras Avenue, Coalinga, on Sunday, November 28 at 2:00 PM.

Remembrances may be made to Baker Museum at 297 West Elm Avenue, Coalinga, CA 93210-1923.

Submitted by Neil Kuykendall, LTC CAP

Coming Programs for 2021 & 2022

Date	Speaker	Topic
December 8th	"No Speaker"	"No Topic"
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"
May 11th	"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:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

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

Eugenia Levy Phillips

South Carolina's original charter gave religious freedom to "Jews, heathens and dissenters." By 1749, the Sephardic Congregation Kahal Kadush Beth Elohim had formed in Charleston. Its members were descendants of Jews expelled from Portugal and Spain in 1492. American builders had never seen a synagogue before so the *shul* was modeled after a church. By the year 1800, one thousand Jews lived in Charleston. There was little stigma on intermarriage between Christians and (wealthy, upper class) Jews at this time. The more isolated the community, the more freely Jews intermarried and were assimilated. Descendants today would have a hard time tracing their Jewish heritage.



The Levy family was members in good standing of the Charleston Jewish community. Joseph Levy, the son of Polish immigrants, owned a successful shop on busy King Street in the Jewish Quarter for over 30 years. His wife, Fanny, originally from Liverpool, England, was a well-known actress on the Charleston stage. The couple was financially successful and part of the City's privileged elite. Their daughter, Eugenia Levy, born on October 24, 1819, was the third of seven children (six girls). At 16 years-old, she married Philip Phillips, a prominent Jewish attorney 13 years her senior. Phillips's father had changed the family name from Pfeiffer to Phillips when they immigrated to this Country from Bavaria. The young couple moved to Mobile, Alabama where Phillips had a thriving law practice. Phillips served one term in the House of Representatives (1853 - 1855) as a Democrat from Alabama. Deciding not to run again, he moved his family to Washington, DC, where he started what promised to be a lucrative career in law.

Eugenia had given birth to seven children in Mobile. She had two more that were born in Washington, DC. The Phillips, along with their four Irish house servants, lived in a large Greek revival mansion. Eugenia was sophisticated and welcomed into the highest social circles in Washington, DC, which was essentially a Southern town. Life

was good until rumblings of war began. Phillips was pro-Union while Eugenia was outspoken in her bias for the Confederacy. On August 23, 1861, she found herself, both her daughters and her sister, Martha, under house arrest for having "Southern sympathies." The authorities later moved Eugenia to the attic of the home of Rose Greenhow, a good friend and another suspected Confederate spy.

Eugenia's husband was able to use his connections with his good friend, Edwin Stanton, to gain her freedom after three weeks. The family fled to Richmond. Later, Jefferson Davis claimed Eugenia had sent him Union maps and intelligence that helped the CSA win at Bull Run. Seeking a safe haven, the family settled in New Orleans which fell to the Union soon after their arrival.

Federal General Benjamin Franklin Butler was having no problem with civilian Southern males in their acceptance of Northern rule. It was the belles of New Orleans who were giving him a headache. Upper class women would exit the streetcar if a Union soldier got on or leave church if an officer entered. They embroidered Confederate flags onto their clothing. If a Federal flag flew overhead, they'd step into a muddy street to avoid standing beneath it. Several women spit at soldiers. A chamber pot was emptied from a balcony onto Admiral David Farragut's head when he passed below.

On May 15, 1862, General Butler issued his infamous General Order #28, the "Woman Order." Some women whispered that Butler's wife, Sarah Jones Hildreth, had forced his hand because she was being ignored by the upper class New Orleans society.

The order read: "As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans, in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any female shall, by word, gesture or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

After the order was published, Butler became known as "Beast." All of New Orleans was outraged at the insult to their women. P.G.T. Beauregard said Butler had called their women "harlots." Jefferson Davis placed a bounty on Butler's head. The order was discussed, written about, and condemned as far away as France and England.

It was reported to Butler that Eugenia Levy Phillips had been caught laughing loudly as the funeral of Union Lieutenant George Coleman de Kay passed beneath her window in the French Quarter. Mrs. Phillips vehemently denied the charge. Many believed Eugenia was targeted because of her religion as Butler was a known anti-Semite. He had been overheard ranting against local smugglers saying, "They are Jews who betrayed their Savior and also have betrayed us." Others felt he just wanted to make an example of her.

On June 30, 1862, Eugenia was summarily arrested, sentenced to three years imprisonment and sent to mosquito infested Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico. As she was led to the prison boat she was amazed to see "heads bowed, to offer me a silent

ovation, some thirty of the oldest and most respected citizens of New Orleans.” Eugenia lived in a shack on the beach. The climate was hot and humid. Her food was leftover soldiers’ rations. The guards were ordered to keep conversation with her to a bare minimum. Eugenia refused to ask for a commutation of her sentence and wrote to her husband, “Let me rot where I am.”

Eugenia’s behavior was turning her into a martyr. Her health had started to decline badly so after less than three months, Butler quietly sent her home. The Phillips family all reluctantly took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on September 11, 1862. It was too little, too late. They were not allowed to remain in New Orleans. They moved to LaGrange, GA. Phillips resumed the practice of law and Eugenia volunteered in the Confederate hospitals. At the end of the War, the family returned to Washington, DC where Mr. Phillips was able to start up his law practice again. He would argue four hundred cases in front of the Supreme Court before his death in 1884.



Eugenia Levy Phillips died in Washington, DC, on April 1, 1902, at the age of eighty one. She is buried next to her husband in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah, GA. Eugenia’s sister, Phoebe Yates Levy Pember, was widowed after less than five years of marriage to her gentile husband, Thomas Pember, who had died of tuberculosis. Childless and wishing to get out of her father’s house, she served as head matron of Confederate Chimborazo Hospital. She stopped using her maiden name, Levy, as it was “too telling.”

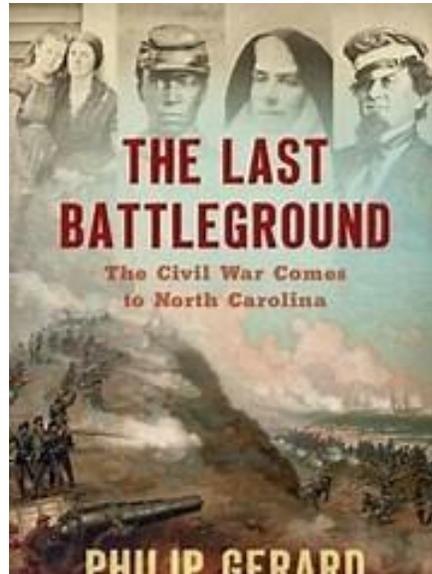
Benjamin Butler had brought his brother, Colonel Andrew Jackson Butler, to serve with him in New Orleans. When Butler was removed from duty in the Crescent City, the two brothers were said to have carted off over two million dollars made from illicit trading with the Confederates. Andrew Jackson Butler offered General Nathaniel Banks \$100,000 to keep his crooked game going in New Orleans but Banks wasn’t interested. Andrew Butler died in 1864 of yellow fever. After a bad showing at his next post, Fort Fisher, Benjamin, was relieved of command. He became a congressman and a one-time Governor of Massachusetts.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

The Last Battleground: The Civil War Comes to North Carolina

By Philip Gerard. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2019. 362 pp. \$28.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-4696-4956-6.

Reviewed by Andrew Duppstadt (North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites). Published on H-CivWar (May, 2019). Commissioned by G. David Schieffler.



Philip Gerard's *The Last Battleground: The Civil War Comes to North Carolina* is a project that grew out of the recent Civil War sesquicentennial. It did not begin as a book project at all but rather as a series of articles published during the sesquicentennial years by *Our State: Celebrating North Carolina*, a magazine begun in 1933 and originally titled *The State*, which highlights travel, food, culture, and all things North Carolina. Gerard, a creative writing professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, admits his surprise at being asked to write such a series considering the many noted Civil War historians from the State. However, the magazine's editor did not want "the settled perspective of an expert writing with perfect hindsight" and thus targeted Gerard, who would not "bring any preconceived notions" to the project (p. ix).

This book is not Gerard's first foray into North Carolina history. He dipped his toes into those waters with his historical novel, *Cape Fear Rising* (1994), based on the actual events surrounding the 1898 coup d'etat and massacre in Wilmington. The *Our State* project, however, was not fiction but rather history written for a popular audience. The criteria laid out for this series of stories was

threefold: each story had to connect to North Carolina in some significant way; the stories were to focus not only on generals, battles, etc., but also on ordinary people; and all stories were to be written in the present tense as if events were unfolding in front of readers' eyes. As a result, this collection of stories, now in book form, covers a wide range of topics from the most obscure private soldier's story and the plight of women, children, and minorities, to the great battles fought on North Carolina soil and experiences of the leaders, both political and military, who called the shots during the great national crisis. Some of these stories are familiar and oft-told, while others are probably appearing in print for the first time.

Gerard had to become a historian in his own right to do this project justice. His acknowledgments show that he consulted a number of academic historians (particularly Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. and Mark Bradley), archivists, librarians, and public history professionals at many institutions across North Carolina. The book's "Selected Sources" section contains a wide range of secondary sources, along with a handful of published primary sources. The volume is also well indexed. The true strength of this work, however, is Gerard's writing, as his ability to tell a good story is without question. Most of the chapters, or stories, are four-to-six pages long, and each is engaging and moves quickly. When reading these stories, one never gets the feeling of being bogged down.

Though Gerard does not seem to intentionally weave themes through the stories, a few nevertheless emerge. One is the theme of desertion, which is highlighted throughout. This is appropriate, as scholars have shown that North Carolina soldiers deserted the army at a higher rate than those in most other states. In numerous instances, Gerard highlights the multiple reasons for this trend, always showing empathy to the deserters. Gerard is also sympathetic to the dilemma of women and children on the home front, left to fend for themselves in very trying circumstances. Another theme that is woven throughout is the plight of North Carolina's African American population, enslaved and free. Through the stories, he shows how their status shifted over the course of the conflict, and how in some cases they became active participants in the fight for their own freedom.

During the sesquicentennial, Gerard's articles in *Our State* were met with mixed reviews. Depending on whom one was polling, readers either loved the articles or hated them. Most of the negative feelings toward the articles came from Civil War buffs who disagreed with either his facts or his analysis of events. Some readers simply took issue with a non-historian writing history, but in so doing they were missing the point of the series. This is not to deny that there are some issues with these stories, in both fact and interpretation.

In some instances, Gerard betrays his limited knowledge of military history and material culture. For example, when he discusses the equipment that soldiers

carried into battle, he erroneously states that the Union forces used a different, less injurious type of bayonet than the Confederates. In fact, the standard bayonet used by both sides was the same triangular blade socket bayonet. Later, in writing about the naval bombardment of Fort Fisher, he refers to some of the Union vessels as "dreadnoughts," a term that did not come into usage until the early Twentieth Century (p. 281).

Some readers will also take issue with some of Gerard's interpretations. As the story of Zebulon Vance's actions at the Battle of New Bern in March 1862 unfolds, Gerard depicts him as a hero during the retreat due to his efforts to procure boats for his men to cross Brice's Creek, but he fails to mention that Vance nearly drowned while trying to cross the creek. Additionally, in a story about Alamance County families, Gerard writes that Judge Thomas Ruffin "employs" about one hundred slaves on his plantation and then details Ruffin's cruelty as a master (p. 128). This word choice is unfortunate, as slaves were viewed as property and were owned by their masters, not employed by them. Finally, when writing about military governor Edward A. Stanly and his attitude toward the African American population of Eastern North Carolina, Gerard states that by denying them education, Stanly was "honoring a State Law that is at odds with a principal aim of the War" (p. 193). The incident in question occurred in May 1862, but it can be argued that emancipation was not a principal Union War aim until Abraham Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation eight months later. While some Union military officers did support emancipation and equal rights for newly freed slaves, those goals did not motivate most White Northerners to fight during the War's first year.

These and other factual and interpretative problems exist, but they detract little from the overall stories being told. Unfortunately, there are no footnotes or endnotes, leading the reader to wonder about Gerard's sources for direct quotations and many other facts. Some readers will want to fact check things in this book, as I did many times. To many historians, this is lamentable and limits the book's usefulness as a resource. Other readers will also struggle with Gerard's use of the present tense, as most are simply not accustomed to reading history written in that way. However, if one chooses to portray the book in a negative light because of these issues, one is missing the point.

What Gerard created, at the behest of the editor of *Our State*, is a collection of human-interest stories meant to appeal to the general reader, not a scholarly, academic tome that breaks new ground in Civil War history or presents any new interpretations. If one approaches this book in that manner, it will prove to be a lively and enjoyable read. Should one choose to pick it apart and find all its faults, the point has most definitely been missed.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.

