



**Volume 53, No. 1  
January, 2013  
2013 Officers:**

**Bob Hanley**  
President  
[acivilwar@aol.com](mailto:acivilwar@aol.com)

**Don Hayden**  
Immediate Past President  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**Anne Peasley**  
Vice President  
[apeasley@wildblue.net](mailto:apeasley@wildblue.net)

**Dennis Kohlmann**  
Program Director  
[gkohlma@aol.com](mailto:gkohlma@aol.com)

**Maxine Wollen**  
Secretary  
[factsofmax@gmail.com](mailto:factsofmax@gmail.com)

**George W. Foxworth**  
Treasurer  
[gwoffoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwoffoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

**Nina Henley**  
Member at Large  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**Wayne Henley**  
Member at Large  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**Brent ten Pas**  
Newsletter Editor  
[brentrtp@gmail.com](mailto:brentrtp@gmail.com)

**SCWRT Website**  
[www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com)  
**Kim Knighton, Webmaster**  
[webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com](mailto:webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com)

# Battle Cry

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



## 2013 SCWRT Meetings and Event Schedule

*(partial listing)*

**January 8:** Authors from Grass Valley

**February 13:** "Holly Springs" by Bob Hubbs

**March 13:** "Women Spies in the Civil War" by Silver Williams

**April 10:** "Elimira Prison" by Tad Smith

**May 3-5:** Gibson Ranch

**May 8:** "TBA" by Sherri Patton

**June 12:** "Attack on the CSS Albemarle" by Karl Bergs

**Nov. 1-4:** Annual West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference  
*(Sponsored by San Joaquin CWRT)*

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2012**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 26**

**MEMBERS - 26**

Jim Armstrong  
Roy Bishop  
Harvey Cain  
Marsha Cain  
Ardith Cnota  
Mitch Cnota  
James Cress  
Jerry Cress  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
Monica Foxworth  
Bob Hanley, President  
Scottie Hayden  
Don Hayden, IPP

Nina Henley, MAL  
Wayne Henley, MAL  
James Juanitas  
Dennis Kohlman, PD  
Lowell Lardie  
Grace Long  
John Rice  
Paul Ruud  
Nancy Samuelson  
Richard Sickert  
Roxanne Spizziri  
Brent ten Pas  
Silver Williams

Maxine Wollen, SEC

**GUESTS - 3**

Esther Boeck  
Larry Spizziri  
Richard Spizziri

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Bob Hanley, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Dennis Kohlman is retiring as program director. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Silver Williams to that position. All votes were in favor. George Foxworth said that Dennis needs to submit a letter of resignation. Silver to serve thru 2013. A BIG THANK YOU to Dennis for his services.
3. New members/guests were introduced.
4. Silver Williams provided wine for the speakers. Dennis Kohlman was presented with a bottle of Perrier-Jouët Grand Brut Champagne in his home following Christmas by Silver Williams. She stated that this special gift of champagne was a thank you to Dennis for his excellent presentation at the December CWRT meeting and also in recognition for his many years of service as Program Director and President. Dennis assures the group that he is merely stepping down as PD, and will continue as a member. Dennis' wife, Garda, said with a laugh, "I don't think anyone could keep him away." During the visit, Dennis displayed a beautiful blanket Garda made for him as a surprise Christmas gift; an outstanding reproduction of the Sanitary Commission blankets used during the Civil War.
5. Board meeting was conducted immediately afterwards.
6. The evening program was a special presentation by Nina & Wayne Henley, and narrated by Dennis Kohlman. Nina and Wayne took turns reading letters that were written during the War by a husband who was serving with the Union, and his wife. Dennis provided background for various events as they were discussed in the letters. The letters were saved the writers and were not discovered until years later. Descendants of the writers put the letters into play form and we were fortunate to have the presentation.
7. A raffle was conducted.

**Board Meeting**

1. The 2013 Conference is on the web site. It will be sponsored by Clovis RT and will be a cruise out of So. CA.
2. There was a discussion of special speakers, and where can a large group be accommodated; it is hard to find a place large enough.
3. Don Hayden asked permission to add photos of the last 2 conferences to the Web site. A motion was made, seconded, and all voted in favor of Don doing this.
4. Board breakfasts will recommence in late January.

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the meeting was \$3,129.74. Thanks to James Juanitas, other members and guests, the raffle brought in \$48.  
George Foxworth, Treasurer



# BOOK REVIEW



## 'Emancipating Lincoln': A Pragmatic Proclamation

by **MELISSA BLOCK**

March 13, 2012 11:33 AM

(source: <http://www.npr.org/2012/03/14/148520024/emancipating-lincoln-a-pragmatic-proclamation>)

One hundred fifty years ago, in the summer of 1862, the Civil War was raging and President Abraham Lincoln was starting to scribble away at a document, an ultimatum to the rebellious states: Return to the Union, or your slaves will be freed.

Emancipation was a "military necessity," the president later confided to his Cabinet. Lincoln called it "absolutely essential to the preservation of the Union. We must free the slaves," Lincoln said, "or be ourselves subdued."

"He knew that emancipation would start the tidal wave of freedom and that it was irreversible once it started," says Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, "but he also knew that more work would be required."

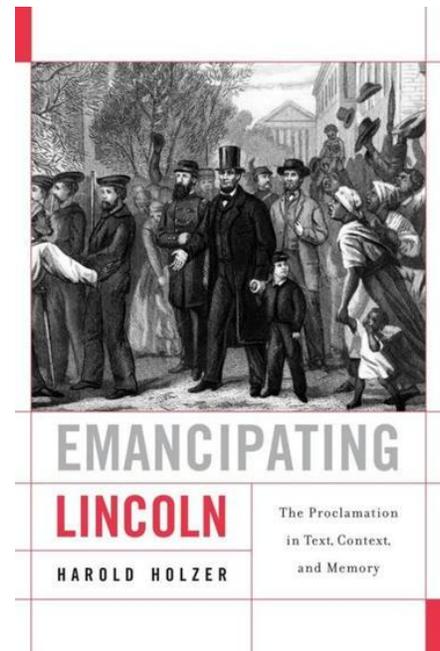
Holzer offers a rethinking of the Emancipation Proclamation in his new book, *Emancipating Lincoln: The Proclamation in Text, Context, and Memory*. It's his 42nd book on Lincoln and the Civil War. Though revisionist critics now say the proclamation was weak — "delayed, insufficient, and insincere" — Holzer disagrees. He says Lincoln very carefully calibrated the timing and delivery of this act.

"He did things in this run-up that are perplexing, sometimes unattractive, sometimes scary — to prepare the country for what in his mind would be a revolutionary moment," Holzer says.

Remember: The country was at war. The intractable culture of racism made a pro-freedom policy a perilous idea. Lincoln knew it could bring down his administration and the Union. Holzer says Lincoln had to fear a virulent backlash from conservative Northern Democrats opposed to racial equality. And he risked triggering secession from the border states

— the slave-owning states that had not joined the Confederacy: Maryland, Delaware, Missouri, and above all, his birth state, the crucially strategic Kentucky: "Lincoln worried that he *wanted* to have God on his side but he *must* have Kentucky," Holzer says.

So that was the context in August of 1862 when Lincoln hosted "a deputation of free Negroes" — prominent African-Americans — at the White House. His message to them? It was not, "you shall be free." It was: "It is better for us both ... to be separated."



"He blames them for the war," Holzer explains. "[He] says, if it wasn't for your presence here — as if it was voluntary in the beginning — this wouldn't be happening. Go where the ban is not upon you, he tells them. Go to the Caribbean, go to Africa. Yeah, they're cruel words, they're harsh words, they're unfriendly."

So how to understand this "bitter pill of prejudice," as Holzer calls it? Well, he says — it's telling that President Lincoln had summoned newspaper reporters to that meeting.

"He wanted this message out," Holzer explains. "What's important to keep in mind is that he had written the Emancipation Proclamation. It was languishing in a drawer or burning a hole in his pocket. He knew he was going to do this, but he

wanted Northern Americans who were dubious about marching toward racial equality to be assured that he was not doing this for the black race. He was doing this for the Union, to reunite the country, to defeat the rebellion, and he had no concern about blacks, their feelings, their resonance. He does have his finger in the wind."

Lincoln was trying to mold public opinion, to make the proclamation palatable. And, Holzer says, the president was waiting for the right moment: a Union victory on the battlefield — which finally came at Antietam.

Within a week of that victory, Lincoln ordered the rebellious states to obey this ultimatum within 100 days: "Either return to your legal balance with the Union, end this rebellion, or your slaves will be then, henceforward and forever free."

There was an immediate backlash: Lincoln's Republican Party was punished at the polls in the 1862 elections. Then, on Jan. 1, 1863, Lincoln was to issue the final decree at the White House.

"It was New Year's Day and by tradition there was a party," Holzer says. "And Lincoln went downstairs early and began receiving guests, and the afternoon comes and goes and African-Americans are gathered in churches, telegraph operators are already keyed up to bring the glorious news to the church whenever it arrived, and nothing happens."

So why the delay? As Holzer tells it, Lincoln had found a mistake in the handwritten document brought for his signature. The whole thing had to be redone. Back it went to the scribe. It took hours. When the proclamation document finally came back to Lincoln, something strange happened: He picked up his pen and put it down several times. People in the room started to wonder if perhaps he wasn't going to go through with it after all. Then he began rubbing the fingers on his right hand. As Holzer explains:

"He said, I've been shaking hands for hours and my hand is almost paralyzed. If I sign the proclamation in a quaking hand even though my whole heart is in it, people will look at my signature in 100 years and think, *he hesitated.*"

Lincoln massaged his hand a bit longer and then picked up the pen and signed his full name, as he did on official documents.

"Then he looked at the signature — Abraham Lincoln — very proudly and said, 'There, that will do,' " Holzer says. "He had said right before that, if my name ever goes into history it will be for this act. He sensed immediately that he had become one of the immortals."

One misconception about the Emancipation Proclamation is that once it was signed, immediately all the slaves were free. But that was far from the truth. Some areas of the South that had already fallen under Union control were not covered by the proclamation. Also exempt were the four border states that owned slaves but had not seceded, so nearly half a million people remained enslaved there. In fact, Delaware and Kentucky only freed their slaves after the war, in December 1865, when the 13th Amendment went into effect. And in the Confederate states, freedom came only as the Union soldiers advanced.

"Soldiers were armed with these tiny reproductions of the Emancipation Proclamation," Holzer says. "Lincoln had ordered hundreds of thousands of them printed. Suppose an officer gets to a plantation owner that might not understand what he had to sacrifice: 'Here it is. These guys are free. You've got to pay them or let them go.' And that's how it worked, mile by mile in Southern territory. It's a long, slow process. At the end of the war, in 1865, for example, slavery had never ended in Texas."

On the cover of Holzer's book is an engraving that shows a scene from April 4, 1865. It's President Lincoln, holding the hand of his young son Tad, as he enters Richmond, Va., just two days after Confederate forces had fled their capital.

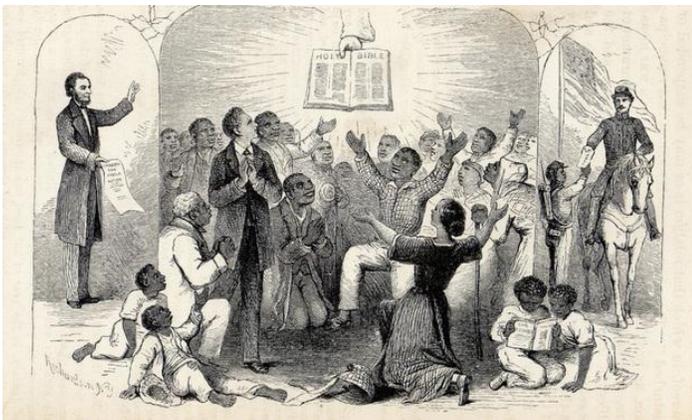
Jubilant African-Americans toss their hats in the air as they greet him:

"They rushed over to him and cheered and knelt," Holzer says. "And Lincoln famously said — and there were witnesses there — 'Please don't kneel to me. You must kneel only to God and thank Him for your freedom.' ... This was Lincoln's real emancipation

moment. This was a moment when the Union troops were occupying the capital of the Confederacy. And these black workers were actually, that moment, free under the terms of the proclamation.

"Here is the Emancipation Proclamation in action. ... This was Lincoln acknowledging, after all those years of struggle, with the end finally in sight, that this was going to be a different society, a society of mutual respect and not subjugation."

But that moment of quiet triumph was fleeting. Just 10 days later, Lincoln was assassinated.



### Proclamation of Emancipation

Woodcut engraving by Richardson (first name unknown), 1865



## The Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863

### A Transcription

By the President of the United States of America:  
A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton,

Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]], and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.



**The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet**

*Engraving by Alexander Hay Ritchie, painting by Francis Bicknell Carpenter, 1864*

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

(source:  
[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured\\_documents/emancipation\\_proclamation/](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/))



## DID YOU KNOW?

President Lincoln ordered work on the capitol dome to continue throughout the Civil War as a symbol of the Union...NOT! We learned this is just another Civil War urban legend. What was the real reason work continued? **The hazards of government contracts!** Engineer-in-charge of the Capitol dome, Montgomery Meigs, was the first to use the Capitol as a symbol of unity. In 1856, to convince Congress to appropriate more money to his project, Meigs told them that it would be, “a sight well worth its cost to see the Congress, in the midst of all this agitation, going on quietly and voting a million for completing the Capitol of this Federal Union and thus showing the little regard they had for the foolish fears of those who talked about its end.”

In May 1861, the same Montgomery Meigs ordered a halt to construction on the Capitol because the government could not guarantee payment. But the workmen continued. Why? There were 1.3 million pounds of iron lying on the Capitol grounds waiting to be cast. If the contractor walked away from the job, it was sure to be stolen before it had a chance to rust. “The sound of the hammer never stopped on the national Capitol a single moment during all our civil troubles,” so wrote the Architect of the Capitol, and Meigs’ archenemy, Thomas U. Walter. Source: History of the United States Capitol, by William C. Allen, page 314.

(source: <http://civilwarstudies.org/trivia.shtm#24>)

