



**Volume 57, No 1
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Battle Cry

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

Here we are at another New Year. This will be a big one for us since thanks to our wonderful Board and our priceless annual conference leader Paul Ruud, we will once again sponsor the Annual West Coast Civil War Conference this November at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento. We have lined up a marvelous group of great speakers including William C "Jack" Davis, Brian Steel Wills, Thomas Cartwright, Jim Stanbery, Ted Savas, and our own Ron Perisho. I trust we will have strong support from our members and our numerous friends from the other round tables in California. We are looking forward to a splendid and informative event.

Our January speaker will be David Dixon whose topic is "The Lost Gettysburg Address." In February, we will host Jim Lane for another showing of a kinescope of the almost lost Abraham Lincoln televised movie with Raymond Massey. I trust we will see many of you there for these splendid presentations. Many thanks are due to Silver Williams for obtaining these speakers who keep us so well-informed.

Another crucial election of the Board of Directors will be held this fall and interested members willing to serve us with their assistance in keeping our Round Table going are welcome to come forward and share their talents. We are the oldest Round Table in the State and are always striving to bring in members; so spread the word to friends and family and we can keep the interest alive in this essential part of our shared history which is the American Civil War. My thanks to all the members of this organization who have maintained their loyalty and friendship over the years and you are all treasured by all of us.

My best wishes for a Happy New Year are extended to all of you and I thank you for your many efforts.

Sincerely,

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 33

MEMBERS – 28: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Jim Armstrong, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Wayne Imberi, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Horst Penning, Bernard Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Roxanne Spizzirri, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 5: Esther Boeck, Joe Maxwell, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Miles Young.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle. George Foxworth brought cake and coffee, and it was a very festive atmosphere for the last meeting of the year. Our speaker was Nick Scivoletto, long time member renowned for his knowledge of Civil War fact and trivia. He gave his talk as a question and answer presentation and it got a lively response. We learned:
2. Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner was Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee before the War. He insulted a Southern congressman (Preston Brooks) and was caned, never fully recovering from the attack. Roger Taney stated “a black man had no rights which a white man was bound to respect.” He was the first Catholic appointed to a cabinet and the Supreme Court. Later, he became an advocate for individual liberty when Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus. A member volunteered that a ship was named after him.
3. The Battle of Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides. The Union had 43,000 men and it lost 13,000 killed or missing; the Confederacy had 35,000 men and it suffered 11,700 casualties in three days of fighting.
4. The New York Tribune was the dominant newspaper for the Whig and Republican Parties during the War with a circulation of 200,000. It’s Editor Horace Greeley coined the phrase “on to Richmond” and “go west young man.” A member noted “Bleeding Kansas.”
5. The answers to some of Nick’s questions provided us with quotes from Lincoln that showed us how the President thought and what he valued. “To lose Kentucky is to lose the whole game.” If held by the North, it was a direct route into the South via the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. If held by the South, it was a natural boundary with the Ohio River. “I hope to have God on my side but I must have Kentucky.” Also, “I can’t spare this man, he fights!” referring to Ulysses S Grant. Some wanted him removed because of high casualties and alleged drunkenness in the field.
6. The two states that entered the Union during the War were Nevada with its silver to help finance the War and West Virginia with its large Unionist population. The first state readmitted to the Union was Tennessee on July 24, 1866. It had no military governor during Reconstruction and it was the first state to ratify the 13th and 14th Amendments.
7. He hated horses because he had been kicked in the head by one as a child but Benjamin Grierson was a Union cavalry officer. After the War, he commanded the Buffalo Soldiers from 1866 - 1890, volunteering for a post no one else wanted.
8. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was the main rail connection between Washington, DC and the northern states. There were over 143 raids and battles that involved the B&O because of its importance.
9. In 1862, the Dakota Tribe of the Sioux rose up against the Union. When the uprising failed, 38 Dakota were hanged. It was the largest one day execution. In 1863, the New York Draft Riots required 16 Union regiments to suppress the 3-day uprising.
10. The only Southern senator to retain his seat after the War began was Andrew Johnson from east TN.
11. The number of correct answers to Nick’s questions demonstrates the knowledge of our members.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance following the December 14th meeting was \$5,835.73. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$68.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2017

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 11th	David Dixon	"The Lost Gettysburg Address"
February 8th	Jim Lane	"FILM: The Day Lincoln Was Shot"
March 8th	Bernie Quinn	"Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain"
April 12th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
May 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
June 14th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2017 Membership

The 2017 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2017. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly 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

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st 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:

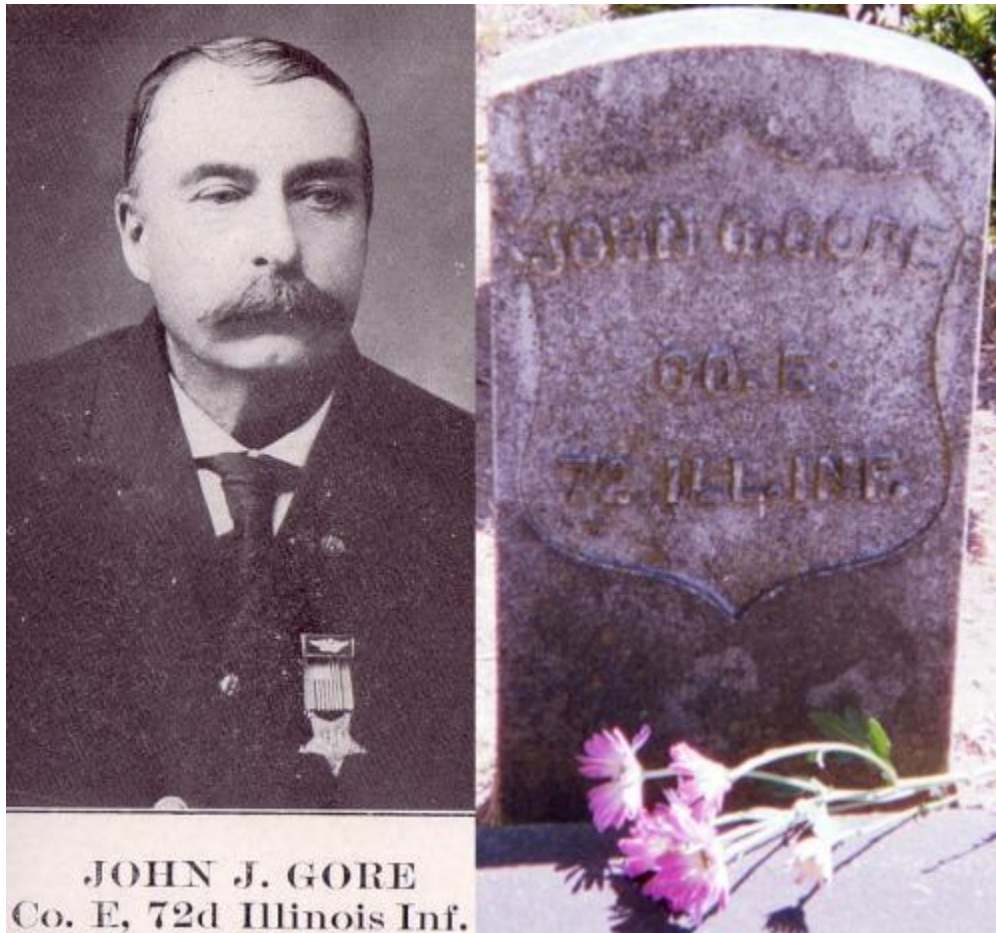
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit scanned files since I may need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

JOHN J. GORE

John J. Gore, a Union veteran of the Civil War, moved to Sacramento in the years after the War. He helped build our great city and is buried here.



John Gore was born in England in 1842 and came to America twelve years later. In August 1862, he enlisted in the 72nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. For the next six months, Gore and his Regiment served in Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee until he fell ill. Gore was discharged for disability in Memphis in February 1863. He moved to Sacramento in 1887.

Submitted by - Sebastian Nelson (sebnelson@gmail.com)

NINE MONTHS TO GETTYSBURG: *Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge*

Author: Howard Coffin Review by: Jay Jorgensen

A former reporter and press secretary for a U.S. Senator, Coffin has been involved in Civil War battlefield preservation for a long time. His first book, *Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War* detailed his native State's involvement in the Civil War. "*Nine Months to Gettysburg*" focuses on the exploits of a brigade of Vermonters who enlisted for nine months from 1862-1863. It is an excellent book!

Coffin does not focus only on the Battle of Gettysburg. Instead, he follows the 13th, 14th, and 16th Vermont Regiments (the 2nd Vermont Brigade) from inception to disbandment. This, then, is the story of a typical Civil War Brigade who happened to perform extraordinarily in the largest Battle of the War. Thus it is that readers follow the Vermonters from the early days of recruitment. Patriotic fervor was at a high pitch, and the Regiments quickly met their quotas. After a short period of formation the new soldiers were shipped to Washington and assigned to the Army of the Potomac.

The original Brigadier was Edwin Stoughton. Coffin spares no niceties in describing the young flamboyant General as a soldier who enjoyed the trappings of rank rather than focusing on doing what was necessary to provide militarily for his command. When he was unceremoniously captured by John Mosby, command of the Vermont Brigade went to George Stannard. It was under that stalwart officer that the Vermonters would achieve high marks.

The author has done an excellent job in ferreting out diary accounts, letters, and newspaper articles involving the men of the Brigade. He allows them to tell their story through extensive use of quotes from that material. Unfortunately the book lacks footnotes to specifically identify the sources, but the author indicates his reasons for that omission in his preface. Woven into the individual accounts is Coffin's narrative of the exploits of the 2nd Vermont Brigade. Combined, the story provided is a wonderful depiction of what these soldiers experienced in the War.

Of course the action by Stannard's men at Gettysburg is the highlight of the history of the Brigade. The author's treatment of the vital role played by the Vermonters during Pickett's Charge is outstanding. By swinging out onto the flank of the attacking Southerners, Stannard's men blunted the attack and led to the repulse of Lee's soldiers. Both Winfield Scott Hancock and George Stannard laid claims to authorizing that movement's order. Coffin examines the accounts and gives his reasoned opinion as to which General should be given credit.

Nine Months to Gettysburg is a terrific book that is highly recommended. It gives insight into an important aspect of the Battle of Gettysburg. More importantly, it allows readers to understand what it was like for the common soldier in the Civil War from enlistment to the end of their fighting days.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein.

Here's Your Chance to Decode President Lincoln's Secret Messages

A crowd-sourced initiative in which anyone can help decipher Civil War telegrams, including messages from Lincoln himself.



The trove of nearly 16,000 Civil War telegrams, formerly belonging to Thomas T. Eckert, are being transcribed and decoded with the help of crowd-sourcing platform [Zooniverse.org](https://www.zooniverse.org).
PHOTO: THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY.

By **EDWARD ROTHSTEIN**

June 21, 2016, 5:24 PM ET

San Marino, California

On April 12, 1865—three days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox and two days before President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated—the President sent a telegram to Major General Godfrey Weitzel, whose Union forces were occupying Richmond, Virginia, the former Confederate capital. The message alluded to some of the issues faced by the conquerors. Would churches in the defeated City be permitted to open that Sunday? Would they be required to offer the customary prayer for the President—now of a newly reunited nation? Lincoln's telegram begins: "What's next news I the prayers I to while coming star what you you mean dispatch zebra I you spirit there understanding any if the piloted your offer there such of any and have was I to Emma never seen of of no toby Zodiac..."

The message was written in code. During the War, a large number of such messages had been intercepted by the Confederacy but never deciphered. The Confederacy even took out advertisements in newspapers futilely seeking assistance.

Now, the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, is requesting similar aid in its project "Decoding the Civil War," collaborating with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, North Carolina State University's Digital History and Pedagogy Project, and

Zooniverse.org, a “crowd-sourcing” platform associated with several academic and research institutions. Scans of 15,971 telegrams handled by the United States Military Telegraph Office during the Civil War have just been put [online](#). About a hundred were sent by Lincoln; about 5,400 are enciphered. A selection of the pocket-sized code books used to translate the ciphers have also been scanned.

During the first phase of this multi-year project, the transcriptions of these handwritten pages will be “crowd sourced:” anybody can register with Zooniverse—some 75,000 participants are expected—and be guided through the process. Collaborative deciphering will begin in the fall—a process that may have its difficulties since some code books did not survive. A combination of software and human scrutiny will evaluate and combine the public contributions. This method is expected to be more efficient than what could be accomplished by the institutions alone.

Before 2009, no one knew these telegrams still existed. The Military Telegraph Office at the War Department was one of the crucial links in the Union Army. Lincoln often peered over operators’ shoulders as the messages were sent and received. When the Director of that Office, Thomas T. Eckert (1825 - 1910), retired in 1867, there were no laws governing ownership of public documents. He took with him some 35 ledger books along with code books and records of correspondence.

These records were believed lost, making a reappearance only when they were acquired from Eckert’s descendants and sold at auction in 2009 for \$36,000. When they were again put up for sale in 2012, their historical value was better recognized. After the government decided it could not afford the Eckert papers, the Huntington, which has one of the most important Lincoln collections in the country, purchased them for an undisclosed sum.

Coding a Union message was laborious. It would first be written out in a grid with dimensions specified by the code, one word per box. The code book would also list two possible substitutes for each important word or person. In the Weitzel telegram, for example, “President of the United States” could have been replaced by either “Bologna” or “Bolivia.” In the text the time “9 AM” is coded as “Emma,” “Richmond” as “Galway” and “Rebel as “Walnut.” Punctuation is also replaced: a period becomes “Zodiac.” This new grid of words—all of them real (thus minimizing typos)—would then be reordered by moving along columns and rows according to rules in the code book. As long as you had that book, you could work out the message. Six of some 10 code books now survive, with four in the Huntington and others in the possession of the George C. Marshall Foundation; one of the great cryptographers of the 20th Century, William F. Friedman (1891-1969), had rescued them as they were about to be incinerated as trash. In some cases, missing code books will make the project’s deciphering particularly challenging.

And what of Lincoln’s message to Weitzel? What was to happen with Richmond’s Sunday prayers? Lincoln may have had his Second Inaugural Message in mind, “with malice toward none, with charity for all.” He had visited Richmond’s ruins and instructed Weitzel to “let ’em up easy.” Weitzel decided the churches would open that Sunday; no loyalty prayer would be required, but no prayers asserting contrary loyalties would be permitted. War Secretary Edwin Stanton objected to the apparent leniency, but in his coded telegram, Lincoln did not. Decrypted and freed of references to a Zebra, Zodiac, and Emma, one sentence reads: “I have no doubt you have acted in what appeared to you to be the spirit and temper manifested by me while there.”

Mr. Rothstein is the Journal’s critic at large.

Submitted by Silver N. Williams

Salt Supply and Demand

At the outset of the War, many Confederates didn't appreciate the consequences of what they derided as "Lincoln's humbug blockade." They had no concept of the inflationary effects it would have on the availability and cost of food.

By the end of 1861, apples from Massachusetts, butter and cheese from New England, vegetables from tropical latitudes, and salt from Wales were scarce in the South, while luxury items such as coffee, tea, spices, and wine had all but disappeared.

Scarcity resulted in drastic price increases. In pre-War New Orleans, salt had sold for 50 cents a sack (commonly containing three 50-pound bushels), or one-third cent per pound. In August 1861, salt was selling for \$1 a sack, and by the end of September, it went for \$6 a sack in Richmond and \$8 a bushel in Raleigh, North Carolina. By January 1862, salt cost \$25 a sack in Savannah, Georgia. In November 1862, salt sold by the Richmond City Council commanded 50 cents a pound, while private stores auctioned it for \$1.30 a pound. By 1864, the price had increased to \$10 a bushel in Georgia and to \$35 per bushel in Mississippi. By September 1863, salt had become so scarce that La Salle Corbell, describing her wedding to Major General George E. Pickett, wrote that "little bags of salt and sugar were sent as presents."

Moreover, the sharply declining value of Confederate currency caused the advent of a barter economy, in which salt itself became currency. At various works around the South, supplies, equipment, and labor were all paid for in salt. North Carolina residents offered five bushels of grain for a bushel of salt, and in Mississippi in October 1862, the rate of exchange was one sack of salt for 40 sides of bacon.

– Steven Bernstein

A sidebar to Bernstein's article "Blood for Salt: Raids on Southern Salt Works Hastened the War's End" May 2016 issue America's Civil War.

Submitted by Silver N. Williams