



**Volume 56, No 2
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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

Hello One and All,

This month, we have Jim Lane speaking on "The Free State of Jones." In 2009, Sally Jenkins, a journalist, and John Stauffer, a chair and professor of the History of American Civilization at Harvard University and the award winning author of books on the Civil War, published a book entitled, "The State of Jones." When I read the book, back then, I was astounded that I had never heard of this insurrection by Southerners against the Confederacy. The poor citizens, black and white of Jones County, were led by a man named Newton Knight from 1863 to 1865. I don't want to give away Jim's discussion, but no one should miss this talk.

A movie about this rebellion against the Rebels is coming out in late spring and stars Matthew McConaughey. After 150 years, citizens of the United States will get to meet this historical figure who has been buried in obscurity.

I hope you are all enjoying "Mercy Street," the television (PBS) series about a Civil War hospital.

Hope to see you all on Wednesday evening, February 10th. Come early, we have so much to chat about.

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, January 13, 2016
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 42

MEMBERS – 32: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Jim Armstrong, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Monica Foxworth, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley (IPP), Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Arnold Kunst, Grace Long, Horst Penning, John Rice, Ed Rill, Paul Ruud (MAL), Patty Ruud, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, John Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 10: Esther Boeck, Seanna Curler, Valerie Hankins, Bret Lonsway, Frank Michny, Gloria Perez, Bernie Quinn, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Don Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden, followed by the Pledge.
2. John Zasso presided over the raffle resulting in an increase in the club's coffers and a number of excellent prizes were awarded.
3. Paul Ruud, long-time member of the Sacramento CWRT, presented his talk on Jefferson Finis Davis. Paul is a highly educated and retired military man with numerous credentials to his name.
4. Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in 1808. The family later moved to Louisiana and then to Mississippi. His older brother, Joe, became a father figure to him when their father died. Davis's military career began when Joe arranged an appointment to West Point. He graduated in 1828. Davis was sent to the Black Hawk War under Zachary Taylor whose daughter, Sarah, became his wife. Because Zachary Taylor did not want his young daughter exposed to the hardships of frontier life, Davis resigned from the Army to live with Sarah on a portion of the Brierfield Plantation, LA, provided by Joe. Tragically, both became seriously ill and Sarah died. Davis became a recluse, working on the Plantation. By 1860, he owned over 100 slaves.
5. At a party given by Joe, Davis met Varina Banks Howell. The 17 year-old married Davis in 1845. Also in 1845, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Mississippi but resigned in 1846 to fight in the Mexican-American War. He was injured at the Battle of Buena Vista. To honor his War service, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate but once again resigned in 1851 to run for Governor of MS; he lost.
6. President Franklin Pierce appointed him Secretary of War in 1853 and he had some success in that position. Another resignation occurred in 1861 when he left the Senate: MS had seceded.
7. He believed in slavery and the right of individual states to secede but did not think secession was wise since it could not be done without War. He knew the South did not have the resources to defend itself. On February 18, 1861, he became President of the Confederate States of America, although he would have preferred to be Commander of the Confederate Armies.
8. In an effort to support states rights', his cabinet was made of men from different states. He was a micro-manager and was reluctant to appoint one General-in-Chief. He did not develop a War strategy with consistent policies and there was poor coordination among generals. No European country would support the South and he was not able to rouse the common people to benefit from Confederate nationalism.
9. Davis and his cabinet escaped Richmond but he and Varina were captured on May 10, 1865. At Fort Monroe, VA, he was treated harshly for the first year but later his family lived with him in better quarters. He was released in 1867 on \$100,000 bail posted by several influential northerners.
10. In 1877, a wealthy widow, Sarah Dorsey, offered him a cabin on her Plantation, Beauvoir, so he could write. She willed Beauvoir and financial wealth to Davis and upon his death to his daughter. Eventually, it became a home for Confederate soldiers and their families.
11. He died in New Orleans on Dec. 6, 1889. His remains are buried in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.
12. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 10 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant, Madison Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the January 13th meeting was \$4,934.44. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$53.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2016

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 10th	Jim Lane	"Free State of Jones"
March 9th	George Beitzel	"Flight Into Oblivion"
April 13th	Susan Williams	"Two Brothers in the Civil War"
May 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
June 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
July 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2016 Membership

The 2016 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2016. 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 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.

Frank and Jesse James “Friends and Family”

by Freda Cruse Hardison. Morris Publishing, Kearney, Nebraska, 2015. 381 pp. ISBN 978-0-9842111-2-8. \$29.00. Paperback. Photos. No endnotes, bibliography, or index.

This book is billed as a historical novel told in the voice of Alexander Franklin James. However, the book has none of the attributes of a novel and it is certainly not historically accurate. The book is poorly organized, rambling, and incoherent.

The author seems to have little knowledge of well known historical facts concerning the Civil War and some well known personalities of the era. She states that Senator Stephen Douglas was famous for the Missouri Compromise. Stephen Douglas was born 1813 and the Missouri Compromise took place in 1820. Douglas did, however, play a major role in the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854. General Nathan Bedford Forrest is given credit for establishing the Knights of the Golden Circle but that organization was founded by a man named George Bickley. Union General Grenville Dodge becomes Greenville Dodge. The Union prison that collapsed killing and injuring the sisters of Bloody Bill Anderson and other female relatives of Quantrill Guerrillas is placed in Lawrence, Kansas. (It was in Kansas City, Missouri.) There are numerous errors of this sort throughout the book.

Military rank structure appears to be foreign territory to the author. Men are one rank on one page and on the next page they are another rank. In one instance, a captain is commanding a colonel. And on occasion, John Thraikill is identified as both a colonel and a major at the same time. (He was a major.) The military abbreviations for rank are used in a rather bizarre fashion. In one place, ferries were of Maj. importance, in another instance something was a Maj. task for Union troops. Then strangest of all, the military rank is used as a name as follows: Alexander Maj's is the manager for Russell, Maj. and Waddell, the freighting firm.

There is a lot of dubious genealogy throughout the book. One egregious example of this is the claim that William “Wild Bill” Thomason, step-uncle of the James boys, was the grandfather of Bill and Jim Anderson. It is also stated that “Wild Bill” taught the James and Anderson boys, together, to shoot, ride, and practice other martial skills. A quick check of the census records shows this to be fiction. The 1850 census for the Anderson family show them in Randolph County, Missouri and W. Tomason (sometimes spelled Tomasson) and his wife Mahala are living with the William Anderson family. The Tomason couple are undoubtedly the grandparents of Bill and Jim Anderson. Both William Anderson, father of Bill and Jim, and W. Tomason list their occupation as hatters (they make hats). In 1850, William Thomason, the step-uncle of the James boys, is 62 years old and is living in Liberty Township in Clay County, Missouri. The Anderson family moved to Iowa for a short time, back to Randolph County, Missouri, then to what is now Lyon, County Kansas. A brief look at the map of Missouri and Kansas should quickly quell any notion that the Anderson and James boys visited frequently and learned to ride and shoot together.

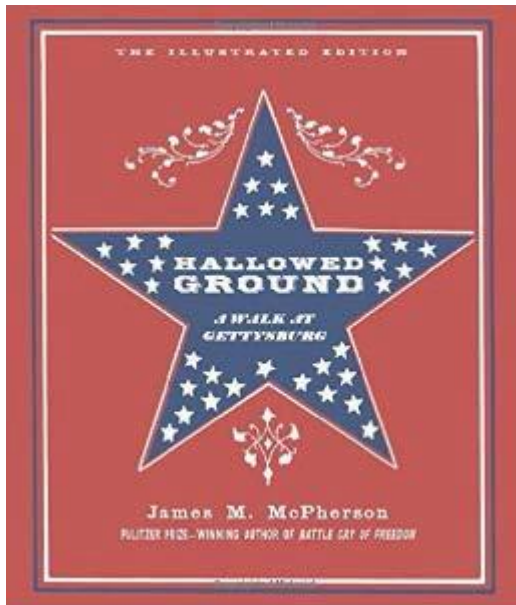
There are a number of photographs in the book and many of them dubious, including the one on the front cover of the book. Several of the photos are from the Emory Cantey Collection and a number of serious scholars and photo collectors have questioned the validity of this entire collection. Several photos offer no source and are also very dubious. Only the photos from the Missouri Valley Special Collection, Kansas City Public Library, should be considered as valid.

This book is poorly written, historically inaccurate, and tedious to read. It is also overpriced for a paperback. Save your money for something more worthwhile.

Nancy B. Samuelson, Sacramento, California

HALLOWED GROUND: A WALK AT GETTYSBURG

The Illustrated Edition



Author: James M. McPherson, Review by: Jay Jorgensen, Illustrated, photos, 224 pp., 2015, Zenith, www.zenithpress.com, \$35.

In 2003 James M. McPherson published *Hallowed Ground*. Zenith Press has reissued a fully illustrated edition of that book. The new book enhances Dr. McPherson's prose with 125 beautiful photographs. The resulting coffee-table type book is a welcome addition to the extensive literature on the Battle of Gettysburg.

James McPherson is one of the country's preeminent Civil War historians. Indeed, his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom* is considered by most to be the definitive single-volume work on the American Civil War. In *Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg*, the Princeton University George Henry Davis Professor Emeritus takes readers on a tour of the Battle of Gettysburg that is both informative and entertaining.

The book is divided into four sections. There is a section devoted to each of the three days of the Battle. The fourth section presents an overview of post-Battle events, including Abraham Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address. Interspersed with McPherson's text are post-War accounts from some of the soldiers. In particular, there are several accounts included in this book by James Longstreet and Abner Doubleday. The author also includes several of the Battle Reports issued by the major officers from both the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia.

Dr. McPherson supplements his earlier work with updated information about the Battlefield and the Gettysburg National Military Park. The copious use of beautiful photographs help readers to visualize the field as they read about the action. McPherson's assertion that, "The illustrations in this edition of *Hallowed Ground* will greatly enhance the readers understanding and appreciation of the Battle and its significance," (p. vii) is right on point. If you have any interest at all in the Battle of Gettysburg, you will want to have this book.

McKinley's Mastery

By Carl M. Cannon on Jan 29, 2016 08:59 am

(Submitted by Silver N. Williams)

Good morning. It's Friday, January 29, 2016, and the last presidential debate before voters begin having their say -- starting with Monday's Iowa caucuses -- has now taken place. At the end of this road, Americans will have chosen their 45th president. Last night's debate in Des Moines (and Donald Trump's rival rally in the city at the same time) raises basic questions about whether we're going about this properly. Probably not.

Yet the truth is that, with the exception of George Washington's selection, it's always been a messy process. Whether it still produces the best possible candidates is an open question, but political parties have always been subject to the whims of historical chance. Certainly that was the case in 1896 when good fortune smiled on the Republican Party, and less so on the Democrats. The end result was defeat for the Democratic ticket headed by William Jennings Bryan. The winner was William McKinley, born this very day in 1843.

The presidential campaign that produced the 25th U.S. president is the subject of a surprisingly good new book by Karl Rove, "The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters," which delivers on both its main title and its subtitle. McKinley's masterful campaign was a textbook case of politicking in which, as Rove shows, the campaign manager and the candidate are one and the same person. Why it's relevant today was on display last night in the back-and-forth between Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Jeb Bush, and Marco Rubio on the subject of immigration. William McKinley won by sweeping away the Republican Party's traditional anti-Catholic bias, appealing to black voters, and explaining why GOP economic policies would help not just business owners but workers as well.

After winning a second term in 1900, McKinley was shot by a leftist loner with impaired physical and mental health. McKinley's death on September 14, 1901 marked the third time in 36 years that a U.S. president had been martyred. The government's cavalier attitude toward protecting the country's chief executive was scandalous (the subject of a future essay), but suffice it to say that the American people were shocked by the loss of a popular president — just as they had been at the deaths of Abraham Lincoln and James A. Garfield.

Like those two men, McKinley had made his name during the Civil War. Lincoln, of course, was Commander-in-Chief of the Union Armies. Garfield was an officer of noted skill. But William McKinley was 18 when he answered the call, a teenager who looked so young and green that he was assigned to be a private in a commissary unit. He didn't stay a private for long. At Antietam, the young man, then a 19-year-old corporal, loaded up a wagon train with supplies including hot coffee and food, and braved Confederate musket and artillery fire to cross an open field to resupply starving Union soldiers two miles away. One wagon was blown up, but McKinley made it safely to the men, who greeted him with "tremendous cheers," according to one eyewitness.

After the War, when McKinley began running for office, the "coffee incident" was derided by one political opponent. To his comrades in arms, however, McKinley was a hero. There's a statue commemorating his bravery at Antietam to this day. He did this kind of thing again and again, once crossing an open field in the Battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, VA, to deliver the news to a cut-off regiment to fall back, thereby saving hundreds of lives. He kept getting promoted, to sergeant, to lieutenant to captain -- all by age 21. At Kernstown, the officer who sent him into harm's way was overjoyed when he made it back alive. That officer was Rutherford B. Hayes.

Before the War was over, McKinley was made a major. To the end of his life, this was the honorific he preferred. "I earned that," he would say. "I'm not so sure about the rest." McKinley had received that brevet commission a month before President Lincoln was killed. Until his own death, that document was one of his most prized possessions. It stated matter-of-factly that he was being promoted for "gallant and meritorious services at the Battles of Opequon, Cedar Creek, and Fisher's Hill."

It was signed, "A. Lincoln."