



**Volume 58, 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

Once again, we had an outstanding presentation by Tim and Jenny Karlberg. We all know the names of the Generals on both sides, but it was the enlisted men who bore the burden of combat. Through their letters, we get a window into the lives of the real people.

One thing I would like to do this year is organize a 3- or 4-day trip to Gettysburg. We would fly to Baltimore, drive to Gettysburg, stay at the Convention Center, and have a bus and battlefield guide for two whole days. It would be in the second half of September. Let me know if you are interested. It has been a few years and I am anxious to get back.

I visited Anne Covin at NorCal Logos-Granite Bay. She still has our shirt logo ready to go. The embroidered logo costs about \$17.00 and she sells all kinds of shirts cheaper than anyone. Let me know if you are interested.

I recently talked to Ted Savas. He recommended a new book titled "Seizing Destiny, The Army of the Potomac's "Valley Forge" and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union." It's the best book I have read in some time and puts General Joseph Hooker in a new light.

I cannot overstate the need for more members. This is the "Year of the New Member." I believe we have something to offer and must get the word out that we exist.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2018**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 23**

**MEMBERS – 16:** Dennis Kohlmann, President, Don Hayden, Vice President, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Ron Grove, Nina Henley, Chris Highsmith, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Richard Sickert (MAL), Roxanne Spizzirri, Michael Werner, Dan & Faye Wolfe.

**GUESTS – 7:** Esther Boeck, Ginny & Tim Karlsberg, Robert Orr, Paul Roth, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. Silver Williams announced her wedding to Larry Marvin in a Civil War historic church in Nevada City. The meeting was called to order by Dennis Kohlmann who led the Pledge. 2018 is the “Year of the New Member.” He suggested members invest in an item from the Nor Cal Logo Catalogue which he has. A man’s shirt with logo is \$35.
2. Tim and Ginny Karlsberg approached the Civil War through correspondence between soldiers and their loved ones. A setting of a Calvary Captain at his field desk and a mother at her chair sewing represented the distant parties. Ginny noted that while men’s letters tended to be kept those written by women often were lost due to battle conditions, etc. However, diaries were more likely to survive.
3. Ginny’s first letter written by a Union woman described the unexpected attack on Fort Sumter uniting all the North as one man against the South in order to keep the country from anarchy. The devotion and fears the women from both sides had for their loved ones permeated their writings throughout the War.
4. Both read from Union and Rebel letters about the First Battle of Bull Run, Manassas Virginia. The sights, sounds, and so many wounded left on the field overwhelmed both writers. This was a frequent theme in many letters.
5. Several Rebel letters related the lack of food and supplies. In one letter, they only had corn and apples to eat resulting in diarrhea. Their clothing were rags; many were barefoot. Another described the destruction of the arsenal at Harper’s Ferry. He asked his father for boots, paper, and stamps. From Antietam, a soldier wrote he was recuperating but items such as fresh eggs, preserves, etc would help. He was not suited to the Army.
6. A philosophical letter came from the defeat of Vicksburg about what was wrong with the War of Southern Rebellion. After Gettysburg, a Union soldier told of the rain, little food, and the wounded unable to leave the field. But from the protection of the stone fence, he and his comrades cut the enemy down.
7. A Confederate letter related how a father met with General Butler to ask how to keep his city safe during the occupation. General Sherman wrote to the Mayor of Atlanta and his Council and ordered them to evacuate the City. Sherman would not revoke his order for all citizens to leave. All must leave until the Union returned. Sherman understood it wasn’t enough to defeat the Army. The Army needed to be deprived of its’ supplies which came from the civilians who also suffered.
8. A letter provided a soldier’s eyewitness account of Lee’s surrender to Grant. Tim condensed General Lee’s letter to President Jefferson Davis announcing the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. His troops had to forage for food because supplies were not where expected costing at least 24 hours. They were outnumbered by more than five times and his exhausted men hadn’t eaten or slept in eight days. General Lee didn’t see how surrender could be avoided.
9. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:00 AM at Brookfield’s Restaurant.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer’s Report**

The cash balance following the January 10th meeting was \$5,969.99. There was no raffle in January 2018.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2018

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 14th	Bernie Quinn	"Wyman White, Sharpshooter"
March 14th	Dennis Kohlmann	"Blame it on Texas"
April 11th	Sue Pearson	"The Nancies"
May 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
June 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
July 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

## **2018 Membership**

The 2018 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2018. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

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.

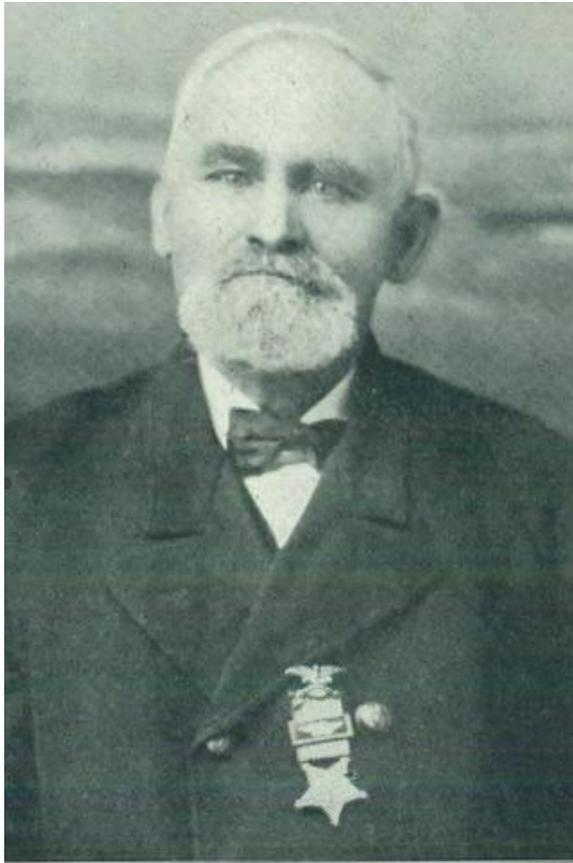
## **FEBRUARY 2018 SPEAKER**

Our speaker for February 2018 is fellow Sacramento CWRT member, Bernie Quinn. Bernie is a lively speaker whose advance preparation shows in his vivid and highly informative presentations. His topic this time is "Wyman White, Sharpshooter." This presentation is sure to please Civil War historians who want to get into the bang-bang aspects of the conflict. Don't miss this exciting topic and presenter.

Silver N. Marvin, Program Director

## Christian Benedix

Christian Benedix , 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.



CHRISTIAN BENEDIX  
Co. G, 1st Iowa Inf.



Christian Benedix was born in Germany in 1839 and moved with his family to Iowa at the age of thirteen. In April of 1861, Benedix enlisted in Company G of the 1st Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment for ninety days service under President Lincoln's first call for volunteers. In August of that year, Benedix fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, where his Regiment lost 13 killed, 141 wounded, and 4 missing.

Benedix was discharged in August of 1861 and crossed the plains to California in 1864. Benedix settled in Sacramento County in 1868 and died in 1919.

Submitted by - Sebastian Nelson ( [sebnelson@gmail.com](mailto:sebnelson@gmail.com) )

# The Hebrew Confederate Cemetery

The only thing Governor Peter Stuyvesant hated more than Catholics, Lutherans, and Quakers were Jews. In September 1654, a boat filled with 23 refugees from Recife, Brazil, landed in New Amsterdam. They were descendants of Spanish (Sephardic) Jews who had fled during the Inquisition rather than convert. Now that Brazil had been recaptured by Portugal, they were forced to flee again. Unfortunately, during a stopover in Jamaica, their ship was robbed by pirates. With no money left, the captain said he would take the group only as far as New Amsterdam.

Peter Stuyvesant immediately wrote to the Dutch West India Company for permission to expel the Jews claiming they were a burden on his colony. He wrote, "... *the deceitful race...hateful enemies...be not allowed to...infect and trouble this new colony...*" Stuyvesant would not allow the Jews to own property, serve in the military, start businesses, or create schools, synagogues, and cemeteries. Luckily, many of the influential owners of the Dutch West India Company in Amsterdam were Jewish. The Company overrode Stuyvesant's proclamations every time.

There had always been anti-Semitism in the United States but the Founding Fathers were committed to religious freedom. At the time of the American Revolution, 2,000 Jews lived in the United States. One of them, Haym Soloman, was the chief financier of the Revolution. At Washington's inauguration, Gershom Mendez Seixes, the rabbi of the oldest Jewish congregation in the country, Sheareth Israel of New York, was one of 14 ministers who officiated at the oath taking. In 1801, Simon Magruder Levy was the first Jew admitted to West Point. (The joke at the time was 50% of the graduating class was Jewish as there were only 2 graduates in that first class.)

By the time of the Civil War, there were 150,000 Jews living in the United States within a population of 33 million. For many of them, it was the first time they were not forced to live in a segregated ghetto or wear distinctive clothing marking them as *other*. Most Jews lived in big cities like New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Memphis, and New Orleans. Charleston had the largest population of Jews in the country.

Usually during times of war and suffering, Jews become the scapegoats. During the Civil War, anti-Semitism reached a new peak in the United States. Mark Twain was correct when he wrote, "...*the Jew had to roast, no matter what side he was on.*" A newspaper cartoon called "*Shoddy the Jewish Tailor*" appeared at this time. Jews were portrayed as cowards yet six Jews, Abraham Cohn, Isaac Gause, Henry Heller, Benjamin Levy, David Orbansky and Leopold Karpeles, earned the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War.

In the South, Jews were traditionally merchants. When prices skyrocketed, it was said to be the fault of those "*greedy Jews.*" John B. Jones, a popular Southern diarist known for his anti-Semitic views wrote that, "*A.C. Myers, the Jew Quartermaster General...met the plea of soldiers for blankets with the answer, 'Let them suffer.'*" Southern Punch Magazine wrote, "*The dirty greasy Jew peddler (sic)...bowing and cringing even to Negro servants, now struts by with the air of a millionaire.*" Senators Chilton of Alabama and Hilton of Florida said, "...*Jews swarmed here as the locusts of Egypt...they flocked as vultures to every point of gain.*" In Memphis, it was reported that, "*Every boat brings in a load of the hook-nosed fraternity.*" Senator Henry S. Foote of Tennessee proposed legislation that would not allow a Jew within 12 miles of Richmond, the Confederate Capital.

In the North, General William Tecumseh Sherman described Jews as "...without pity, soul, heart, or bowels of compassion..." Returning on a ship from Germany, General McClellan wrote, "...fortunately there are enough gentiles to make it pleasant for us...and enable us to be quite independent of the sons of Jacob." Benjamin Butler stated, "The Jews in New Orleans and all the South ought to be exterminated..." Mark Twain, in his essay, "Concerning the Jews," wrote that the Jew "...is charged with an unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier..." A year later, he wrote a formal apology, "I was ignorant...of the fact that the Jew...furnished soldiers and high officers to the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. In the Civil War, he was represented in the armies and the navies of both the North and South by 10 percent of his numerical strength—the same percentage that was furnished by the Christian population..."

Confederate Secretary of State Judah Benjamin was called a "Hebrew dog" in the North and a "little pilfering Jew" in the South.

Rumors began to circulate on Wall Street that Jews were investing in Southern cotton and financing the Confederate government for a profit. Ulysses S. Grant's staff reported that Jewish traders were clogging the roads with their smuggled goods and selling them to soldiers at exorbitant prices. On December 17, 1862, General Grant issued General Order #11, the "Jew Order." It expelled within 24 hours all Jews from the Department of Tennessee, which included Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. It caused a tremendous uproar throughout all the Jewish communities in the country. By January 4, 1863, the Order was rescinded. Though stricken from the books, Order #11 re-ignited anti-Semitism that had long lain dormant.

Feeling justified because of the rise of anti-Jewish feeling, two Confederate military cemeteries at Spotsylvania Court House and Fredericksburg, refused to bury Confederate Jewish soldiers who had been killed at the Battles of Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and the Wilderness. Jewish law says bodies must be buried within 24 hours of death. A cemetery needed to be found to bury the mortal remains of these men.

In Judaism, it is considered a "*mitzvah*," a commandment and blessing, to care for the dead and accompany them to their final resting place. Jewish Burial Societies had been set up early in this country to care for the bodies of those without families or those who died far from their homes. Establishing a cemetery was one of the first priorities of any Jewish community. The members of these societies tended to the bodies of the deceased. After forgiveness was asked of the corpse, in case of any accidental indignity, the ritual cleaning and dressing of the body in a white linen shroud took place. Then "*Kaddish*," the Hebrew prayer of mourning, was said.

An untended vacant lot was found abutting the much larger Hebrew Cemetery of Reform Congregation Beth Ahabah in Richmond, Virginia. Thus The Hebrew Confederate Cemetery, the only Jewish Military Cemetery in the world outside of Israel, was founded to bury the bodies of 30 Confederate soldiers who had been refused burial after fighting and dying for their "country."

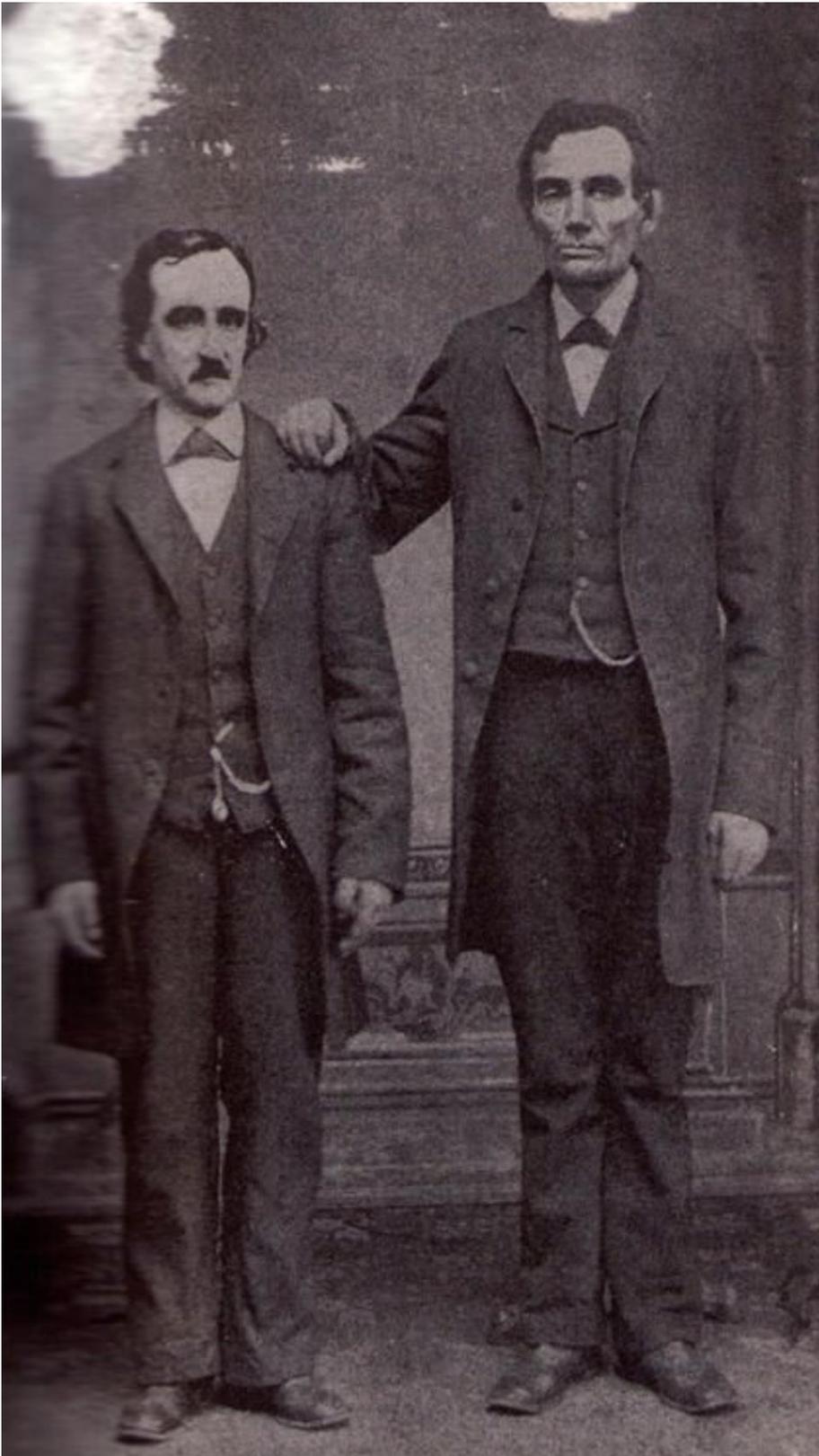


The 30 soldiers were buried in 5 rows, 6 across. There is only one Unknown. A magnificent iron fence surrounds the burial area. It depicts stacked muskets for the infantry, crossed swords and sabers for the artillery and cavalry. Confederate flags and a Confederate soldier's cap also adorn it. Soldiers in this plot came from Louisiana, North and South Carolina, Texas, Georgia, and Mississippi. Another 6 Confederate soldiers are buried in their own family plots in the Hebrew Cemetery.



Since 1866, the Cemetery has been cared for by the Hebrew Ladies Memorial Association for the Confederate Dead. At its opening, the founders felt it was important to remark, *"In time to come, ...when the malicious tongue of slander...shall be raised against us, then with a feeling of mournful pride, will we point to this monument and say: There is our reply."*

When the original gravestones began to crumble, they were removed and replaced with a granite boulder. The names of all the soldiers in this plot were etched onto a bronze plaque and affixed to the stone.



Edgar Allan Poe poses with Abraham Lincoln in Mathew B. Brady's Washington, D.C. Studio, 1849.

Submitted by Silver N. Marvin