



**Volume 58, No 6  
June, 2018**

**2018 Officers:**

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**  
(916) 726-4432  
[gkohlma@aol.com](mailto:gkohlma@aol.com)

**Anne M. Peasley, IPP**  
(530) 320-5112  
[apeasley22@gmail.com](mailto:apeasley22@gmail.com)

**Donald J. Hayden, Vice  
President**  
(916) 485-1246  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**Silver N. Marvin,**  
Program Director  
(916) 712-1875  
[snw5678@aol.com](mailto:snw5678@aol.com)

**Barbara A. Leone, Secretary**  
(916) 457-3915  
[bleonelachatte@hotmail.com](mailto:bleonelachatte@hotmail.com)

**George W. Foxworth,**  
Treasurer  
(916) 362-0178  
[gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

**Richard E. Sickert, MAL**  
(916) 564-4608  
[r.sickert@comcast.net](mailto:r.sickert@comcast.net)

**Paul G. Ruud, MAL**  
(530) 886-8806  
[paulgruud@gmail.com](mailto:paulgruud@gmail.com)

**VACANT**  
Editor

**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/>



## President's Message

Larry Marvin did an outstanding job as our May speaker. His topic was on how wars have a way of inspiring invention. Silver Marvin claims Larry offered to speak to our group before they were engaged. I just know when a woman asks a man to speak to her Civil War group, things are getting serious indeed.

The June meeting will have Paul Ruud speaking on the topic from "The Battlefield to the Oval Office." This should be very interesting.

Although strongly Unionists, most Northerners seem to have been uncertain as to what to do about Secession. Even Horace Greeley, Editor of the New-York Daily Tribune and a devoted abolitionist, said "Let them go," adding: "we do not see how we could take the other side without coming in direct conflict with those Rights of Man which we hold paramount to all political arrangements." John Adams Dix, a former Secretary of the Treasury in Buchanan's Administration wrote, "It is by no means improbable that if a separation had been sought by the Slave Holding States persistently, and through peaceful means along, it might have been ultimately conceded by the Northern States in preference to a bloody Civil War".

The "firing on the flag" at Fort Sumter caused an almost universal outpouring of patriotic ardor. Anyone who has read Lincoln's Speech at Coopers Union in 1860 knows that it played directly into Lincoln's hands.

I can think of no other example of a time such a wrong action was taken.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 2018**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 28**

**MEMBERS – 21:** Dennis Kohlmann, President; Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley, Chris Highsmith, Jane Jackson, Larry & Silver(Program Director) Marvin; Paul Ruud (MAL); Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivolletto, Richard Sickert (MAL); Roxanne Spizzirri, Dan & Faye Wolfe.

**GUESTS – 7:** Esther Boeck, Judge & Mrs. Lawrence Marvin, David Richman, Lynda Richman, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. Dennis Kohlmann called the meeting to order and led the Pledge. Nicholas Scivoletto conducted the raffle. The 2018 West Coast Civil War Conference is in Fresno, California, November 9 - 11, 2018. Larry Marvin talked about Civil War Innovations, April 1861 - May 1865.
2. President Lincoln realized how vital railroads were for moving troops and supplies. Because the railroads were so critical, depots and infrastructure were prime targets to be attacked and defended. By September 1863, Southern railroads were badly deteriorated. U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron was forced to resign for trying to profit from the War Department contracts for railroad shipping.
3. The North had a Navy but the South captured the Norfolk, Virginia Navy Yard and salvaged the frigate Merrimack. Renamed the Virginia and given iron sidings, it proceeded to sink two wooden Union warships at Hampton Roads. In ninety days, the North sailed the Monitor; it had over 40 patentable inventions. The first battle between ironclads happened on March 9, 1862. The second day of the Battle of Hampton Roads was a draw. The round turret of the Monitor became the design of modern day warships.
4. Innovations in weaponry such as the bored rifle gave bullets spinning motion and increased the range from 100 yards to 500 yards. Richard Gatling invented the Gatling Gun thinking its catastrophic power would convince men to stop war but it had the opposite effect. The Whitworth Rifle was used by Confederate sharpshooters. The seven-shot Spencer Rifle was the first successful magazine-fed repeating rifle used by the U.S. Army.
5. Portable telegraph units were used on the battlefield to send real time reports to headquarters and Washington, D.C.; President Lincoln could communicate with his generals. It also allowed reporters to provide real time information to their newspapers.
6. The U.S. banking system was transformed. Greenbacks issued by the Federal Government became legal tender replacing paper notes issued by local banks. Dennis noted paper money could be mailed home.
7. Amputations saved more lives than any other wartime procedure. Ether or chloroform provided anesthesia as surgeons amputated limbs in six minutes. The first organized ambulance system for transporting the wounded from the battlefield to dressing stations and then to field hospitals was set up.
8. The CSS Hunley was the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel. It sank the USS Housatonic but because the Hunley was so close, its eight-man crew was killed. Innovations such as air purification, electric motors, and periscopes didn't surface again until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Hot air balloons were used for aerial reconnaissance.
9. Mathew Brady's innovations in wet plate photography allowed a limitless number of prints and larger prints. He became obsessed with documenting the War and took out huge loans to hire 300 photographers to shoot all aspects of camp life, battlefields, etc. He died penniless on Jan. 15, 1896.
10. In 1861, the first Federal income tax was imposed to pay for the War. It was 3% of income over \$800.
11. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 10 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the May 9th meeting was \$6,492.07. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$50.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2018

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 13th	Paul G. Ruud	"From the Battlefield to the Oval Office"
July 11th	Robert Orr	"Vicksburg Battlefield, Part A"
August 8th	Larry Tagg	"The Generals of Shiloh"
September 12th	Sherrie Patton	"Latinos Were in the Civil War"
October 10th	Tad Smith	"Fort Sumter, From the Southern Perspective"
November 14th	Joe Maxwell	"Union Cavalry"
December 12th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Civil War Quiz"

## 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:

[gwofforth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwofforth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

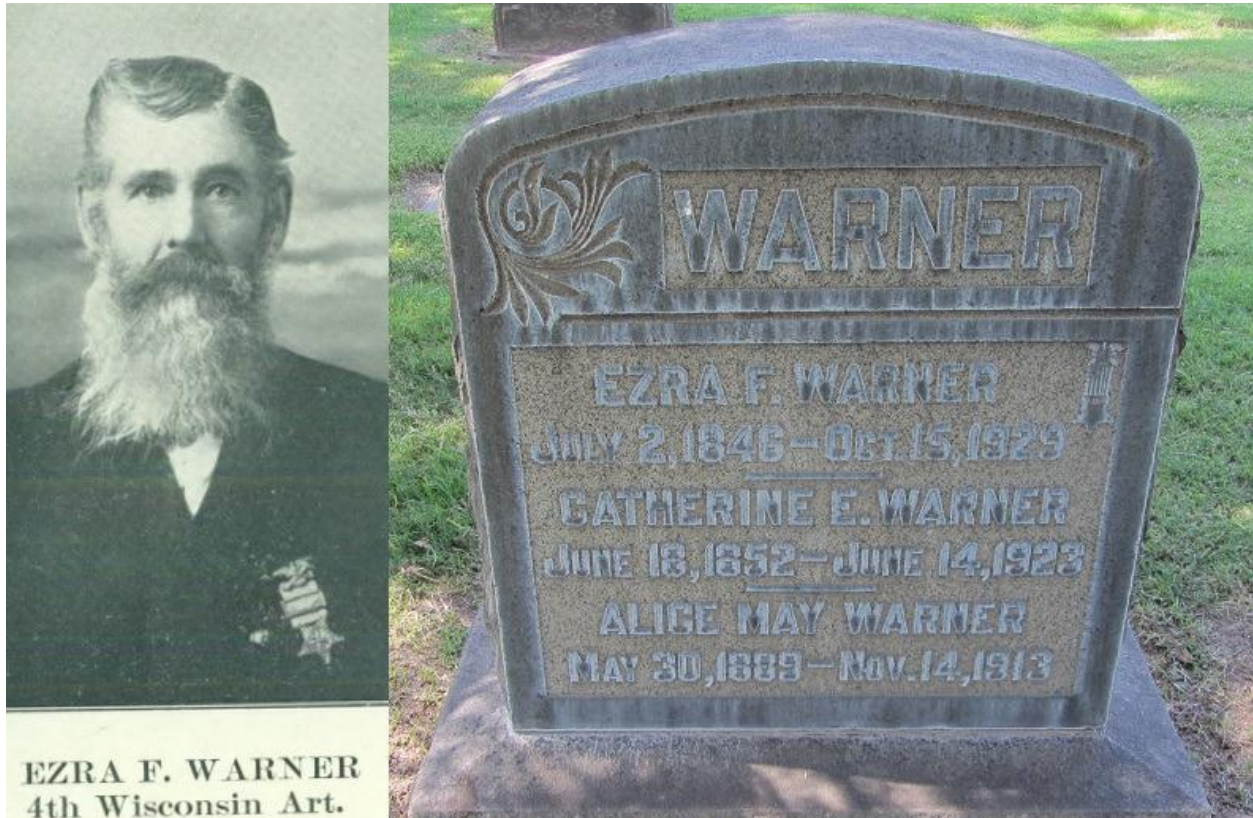
The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, 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.

## Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War

Friday, July 27 to Sunday, July 29, 2018 - The **Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War** will be held in Alexandria, Virginia. The weekend's events include lectures by noted historians, and field trips to Washington, DC and Alexandria sites. This will be the **Society for Women & the Civil War's 19th Conference**, and it is sure to provide a wealth of information around the Conference Theme of "**Rebuilding Lives After the Civil War.**" For Conference information and registration, please go to: <http://www.swcw.org/conference-details.html> or feel free to contact Janet Whaley at [Janet1860@charter.net](mailto:Janet1860@charter.net).

## Ezra F. Warner

Ezra F. Warner, 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.



Ezra Warner was born in Wisconsin in 1846 and enlisted in the 4th Wisconsin Light Artillery in 1863. Warner's battery was attached to General August Kautz's Cavalry Division, fought at the Battle of New Market Heights, and was engaged in the siege of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, from June 1864 until April 1865. In September of 1864, the cannons of Warner's battery were some of the few to land shells on the streets of the Confederate Capitol.

Warner, a house painter, moved to Sacramento in 1873 and died in 1929.

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

# Louisa May Alcott



Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29, 1832 to Amos Branson Alcott and Abigail “Abby” May Alcott. Abby was “society.” She was descended from Samuel Sewall, a Chief Justice of Massachusetts and a judge at the Salem Witchcraft trials, and Dorothy Quincy, her great aunt and wife of John Hancock. On May 23, 1830, when thirty year-old Abby married her thirty one year-old struggling teacher/philosopher, Amos, she was shunned by her family and others of her class.

The Alcotts moved over twenty two times in thirty years. Amos constantly lost jobs by integrating his schools, instituting “Recess,” and putting his educational philosophy to work in the classroom expressly against parents’ wishes. Abby and Amos both served as Station Masters on the Underground Railroad. They agreed on Temperance, women’s voting rights, and on a woman’s right to work outside the home. In truth, Abby had to work or the family might have starved.

The Alcotts subsisted on a small inheritance left to Abby, much of it lost to liens incurred by Amos. Abby was one of Boston’s first paid social workers. All four Alcott daughters took positions as seamstresses, governesses, teachers, or domestics in order to sustain the family at one time or another.

By the time Louisa May was ten years old, she was living in her father’s Utopian dream world, a commune called Fruitland. The dream was Amos’s, subsidized and worked by others. One woman asked Louisa’s mother, “Are there beasts of burden here?” Abby replied, “Only one.” Strict veganism was practiced and no animal labor was used in farming. No animal manure was used for the crops. Milk, coffee, tea, and wine were forbidden as were sugar and molasses. No clothes were worn with cotton made by slave labor. Baths were taken in cold water. The commune fizzled out after seven months. Amos took to his bed and resigned himself to starvation. Abby nagged until he got up and moved the family to Concord, Massachusetts where Amos went back to teaching.

In 1858, they moved to an old farmhouse that was situated on an apple orchard, soon dubbed Orchard House. The cost of the home was \$945. Ralph Waldo Emerson paid \$900 and the Alcotts managed to pay the rest. Amos considered the apple the perfect food and for long periods of time it was the only food the family had to eat. Still, they never complained.

Famous intellectuals flocked to their home. The daughter of John Brown came to stay with them after her father was executed. Dorothea Dix and Margaret Fuller were teaching assistants to Amos. Louisa May grew up knowing William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass. Her teachers were Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne.

The family continued their struggle to survive while Amos took up with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau to form the Transcendental Club. As Transcendentalists, they focused on the spirit and nature, avoiding society and its institutions which would only corrupt them. Edgar Allen Poe referred to them as the "Frog Pondians."

Louisa remained a vegetarian throughout her life. Always a tomboy, she preferred climbing a tree to playing with dolls. She started each day with a long jog. Her father had instituted compulsory journal keeping for everyone in the house. Louisa loved to write. In 1852, she sold her first story. For the next twenty years, she was able to make a living writing lurid love stories and dramas filled with outrageous characters. She often wrote under the pseudonym, A.M. Barnard. She began to make enough money to support the family.

Louisa insisted she had no desire to wed and no proposals came her way. "I'd rather be a free spinster and paddle my own canoe," she insisted. On her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, she signed on to become a nurse in a Civil War hospital in Washington, DC. After six weeks, she became deathly ill with typhoid pneumonia. She was treated with calomel, which contained mercury, and taken home by her father. Louisa used her experiences in the wards to write Hospital Sketches. After its publication, she was finally taken as a serious writer.

In 1868, Louisa's publisher asked her to write a story for young girls. Little Women was destined to become one of the most famous classics of all time. Louisa based the story on herself and her sisters. The eldest, Anna, the good wife, would be Meg in the book. Louisa was Jo, the provider and caretaker. Elizabeth would be Beth, the sweet sister who dies young. (Elizabeth had died in 1855 after contracting scarlet fever while helping her mother care for a poor family. She recovered but died of a wasting disease two years later.) The youngest sister, Abba May, (always known as May) would be Amy, the pretty, flighty one. May was the illustrator of the first edition of Little Women.

The book took the world by storm. Never again would the Alcotts need to worry about money. None of the eight young adult novels that Louisa wrote have ever been out of print. Her books have been translated into fifty languages.

Anna's husband, John Pratt, died in 1870. With Louisa's help, Anna was able to buy her own home in 1877, the same year that Abby (Marmee) died. May, who had been allowed to sketch directly onto the walls of Orchard House, taught art until Louisa was able to send her to school in Paris. One of May's pupils was Daniel Chester French, who sculpted the Lincoln monument in Washington, DC. In 1877, May was the only woman chosen (over Mary Cassatt) to show a painting in the famous Paris salon. While there, she met and married Edward Nieriker, a businessman and musician. He was twenty two years old, she was thirty nine (and close to six feet tall.). The following year, May died of child bed fever six weeks after their daughter, Louisa May (Lulu), was born. Lulu was sent to live with her namesake in Concord, Massachusetts.

Louisa May used morphine liberally the last twenty years of her life to ease the bone and muscle aches caused by mercury poisoning from her calomel medication. She also suffered from hallucinations, severe stomach problems, rashes, migraines, and depression. While in

their grip, she would leave her special pillow upended on the couch as a signal for her family to stay away from her.

Louisa May Alcott was fifty five years-old when she died on March 6, 1888, two days after her father. They were buried on the same day. Today it has been suggested that the cause of her death might have been lupus exacerbated by the mercury poisoning.



Louisa is buried with her family on Authors Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts. Her grave is covered with pens and pencils left by her many admirers. Near her lie Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Daniel Chester French, and many more famous artists of her day.

Lulu was brought back to be raised in Europe by her father. She died in 1975 at the age of 96.

Orchard House is open to the public. Eighty percent of the original Alcott furnishings, including the desk Amos built where Louisa sat to write Little Women, are on display.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

# 2018 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 9 - 11, 2018



**WYNDOM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-866-238-4218), \$99.00 per night, or [wydhamguestreservations.com](http://wydhamguestreservations.com).**

## **“THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI THEATER: THE NOT SO GLAMOROUS STEP-SISTER OF CIVIL WAR HISTORIANS.”**

HOSTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CWRT AND THE INLAND EMPIRE CWRT.  
For more information, see Website: [SJVCWRT2.com](http://SJVCWRT2.com)

### **SPEAKERS:**

**Thomas Cutrer, Ph.d.**, Theater of a Separate War  
**Richard Hatcher III**, Park Ranger (Retired), Wilson’s Creek  
**General Parker Hills**, Red River Campaign Tour Guide  
**Jim Stanbery MA.**, Professor (Retired)  
**Dr. Brian Clague, MD**

**TOPICS: Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Red River, Sibley’s Campaign, & others.**

**Ron Vaughan, MA** (Conference Coordinator: [ronvaughan@prodigy.net](mailto:ronvaughan@prodigy.net))

---

**ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON** for Weekend, including meals.

**Dinner Entrees:** (  )Beef, (  )Chicken, (  )Fish, (  )Veggie

\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Friday Dinner \$35.00; \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Saturday Dinner \$35.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address Check to **San Joaquin Valley CWRT.**

Send Check and Registration to: **Ron Vaughan, 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.**