



Battle Cry

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

Our speaker for our July 11th meeting is Tom Lubas, President of North Bay Civil War Roundtable. His topic is Benjamin Butler, a character who does not fail to intrigue and entertain. In anticipation of Tom's presentation, below is a very brief biographical sketch.

Benjamin F. Butler was a controversial, self-aggrandizing, and colorful politician who served as a Union general during the American Civil War (1861–1865). A state senator in Massachusetts, Butler was a delegate to the 1860 Democratic National Convention, where he briefly supported Jefferson Davis. Always popular, he was nevertheless dogged by charges of corruption, abuse of power, and, when he accepted a general officer's commission from Abraham Lincoln in 1861, incompetence. Even his appearance inspired commentary. A Union staff officer penned in his diary how Butler cut "an astounding figure on a horse! Short, fat, shapeless; no neck, squinting, and very bald headed, and, above all, that singular, half defiant look." During the Civil War, Butler made substantial contributions to the Union war effort, including a policy that allowed the United States government to skirt the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law by claiming that escaped slaves were "contraband of war." In this way, he was able to put African American refugees to work on fortifications and helped to pave the way for emancipation. He also served as a military administrator for occupied regions in Virginia and Louisiana—where he was particularly hated—before a lackluster performance as commander of the Army of the James during the Petersburg Campaign (1864–1865). After the war, Butler was elected governor of Massachusetts. He died in 1893. (Provided by Encyclopedia Virginia; http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Butler_Benjamin_F_1818-1893)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Bob Hanley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 40

MEMBERS – 32

Robert E. Hanley, President
Anne E. Peasley, Vice President
Maxine Wollen, Secretary
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer
Steve Andrews
James M. Armstrong
Roy Bishop
Harvey D. Cain
Marsha J. Cain
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Ken M. Lentz
Mary Lou Lentz
Rick A. Peasley
Horst Penning
Mark Penning
John Rice
Paul G. Ruud
Nancy B. Samuelson
Nicholas Scivoletto
Roxanne E. Spizzirri
David Wilkening
Silver N. Williams
Don A. Zajic
John V. Zasso

GUESTS – 8

Esther Boeck
Ginny Karlberg
Tim Karlberg
Ed Mireles
Pam Mireles
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Ray Valdez

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Bob Hanley.
2. President Hanley introduced the guests and a returning member (David Wilkening).
3. President Hanley asked for a volunteer to assume the Secretary position.
4. John Zasso led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. President Hanley introduced the speakers, Tim and Ginny Karlberg. Their topic was: “CAL 100.”
6. In the late summer of 1862, a group of Californians, all originally from the East Coast, had contacted Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts and proposed to raise one hundred volunteers to form a separate company in a cavalry regiment that was being raised in Massachusetts. The Governor agreed with the condition that the Californians would provide their own uniforms and equipment. Officially they became Company A of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, but were more popularly known as the “California Hundred.” The men arrived at Camp Meigs, Readville, Massachusetts on January 4, 1863.
7. This first contingent was so appreciated that it was followed by 400 more California volunteers. They arrived at Camp Meigs during March and April of 1863 and soon after receiving their basic training joined Company A and the rest of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry as Companies E, F, L, and M. This second group of Californians was known as the “California Battalion.”
8. During the Civil War, over 15,000 California troops served in various places in the Far West.
9. Lively questions and answers followed the presentation.
10. President Hanley thanked The Karlbergs for their talk and gave them a bottle of wine.
11. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING

13. President Hanley talked about the vacant Secretary position. Maxine Wollen volunteered to assume the Secretary position. A vote will be taken at the July 2012 meeting.
14. Tom Lubas, North Bay CWRT, is the July speaker and his topic is “About General Butler.”
15. The Board of Directors’ meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Maxine Wollen

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance following the June 13, 2012 meeting was \$2,774.82. Thanks to Anne Peasley, John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$51.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer



In the Cause of Liberty: How the Civil War Redefined American Ideals

Edited by William J. Cooper Jr. and John M. McCardell Jr.

(July 2012 Civil War News)

Collections of interpretive essays can offer treats to readers that book-length histories can't. Submitted by multiple authors, the articles will cover a refreshing range of subjects even when grouped around a common theme. Styles of writing and modes of thinking can be colorfully different.

In a couple of dozen pages a thoughtful, disciplined scholar can outline a topic, argue a point in detail, and close with satisfying succinctness.

Essay reading is even richer when the essayists themselves are superb, which is why William Cooper and John McCardell's collection of nine articles, *In the Cause of Liberty*, is so interesting and worthwhile.

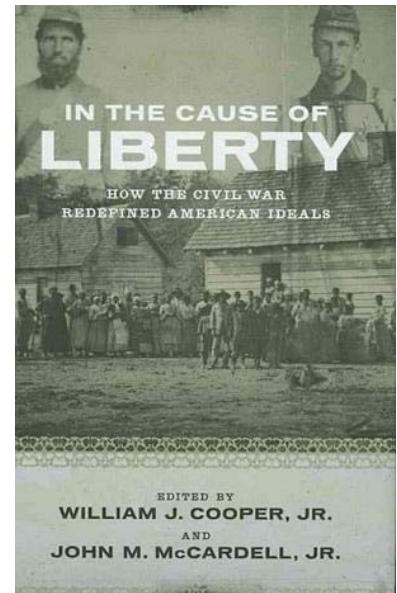
In his brilliant opening essay, James McPherson outlines how transformative the Civil War was for the United States. Because of the conflict and its outcome, the world's largest slaveholding nation turned four million slaves into citizens and voters — in only five years, no less, after almost 250 years of legally sanctioned servitude.

The war not only settled the question of whether our experimental republic would survive, but ensured its future as indivisible nation.

The war also transformed the nature of our government. While 11 of the first 12 constitutional amendments had limited federal powers, six of the next seven amendments (beginning with the 13th) expanded the powers of the national government at the expense of the states.

Finally, McPherson concludes that the war “forged the framework of modern America,” allowing the U.S. to become “the world's leading industrial as well as agricultural producer by the end of the nineteenth century.”

In “Slaveholding Nation, Slaveholding Civilization,” Christa Dierksheide and Peter S. Onuf review how white Southerners gradually worked themselves from anguish over slavery in Jefferson's time to belief in its positive, salutary benefits for the American republic. The story is a familiar one, but here it receives a fresh, honest expression.



Sean Wilentz's “Why Did the South Secede?” reminds us that Lincoln's election threatened slavery and the Southern states left the Union to protect it. Wilentz's point seems obvious until one recalls that for a long time the Civil War was considered so much about anything but slavery.

Put another way, the Centennial was about state rights, but the Sesquicentennial is about slavery. Wilentz fits right into the new thinking.

In Richard Carwardine's “Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party, and the Union,” we are reminded of Lincoln's brilliance as war president.

He carefully managed the shift in Northern war aims from Union to emancipation; he harnessed radicals, Democrats and conservative Unionists alike for the war effort, and he maintained the political power of the Republican-Union Party amidst a contentious Northern electorate. And he won the war. No wonder Lincoln is rated by historians as one of the greatest presidents of the United States.

George Rable's contribution examines the efforts of Southern politicians and thinkers to articulate a rationale for secession and a foundation for Confederate patriotism.

Their ideology, linking the Southern war for nationhood to the "rebels" of the first Revolution and their emphasis on the Confederacy's conservatism and purported classlessness, never succeeded in silencing critics or quieting doubters.

Southerners fought hard and long, Rable concludes, but it was for reasons other than those put forth by Confederate ideologues.

As if to answer why Southerners fought, Chandra Manning begins her essay on "Wartime Nationalism and Race" with the observation that "shared belief in the need to gain independence from a Union that soldiers assumed would impose abolition and endanger white supremacy kept Confederate soldiers fighting until the spring of 1865."

Similarly, race and nationalism were intertwined for blacks who fought for the North; they envisioned that Union victory could lead to a nation that lived up to its promise of freedom for all.

On the other hand, most white Union soldiers at first kept race and nationalism separate; they were fighting for the Union, not emancipation. Only halfway through the war, as the conflict became more radical, did Federal soldiers accept abolition as a legitimate Northern war aim.

In "Redeeming a Failed Revolution," Fitzhugh Brundage reviews how white Southerners after the war accommodated themselves to Confederate defeat. Clergymen, veterans and clubwomen collaborated to memorialize the cause and honor those who had died for it.

As a measure of their success, "by 1920 the white southern memory of the Civil War had been folded into the more capacious national memory of the struggle." Yet Brundage shrewdly notes that when white Northerners could join in the veneration of Robert E. Lee as a national hero, it was partly because they embraced not just Confederate memory, but also its subtle "reactionary and racist underpinnings."

David Blight distills his thesis, convincingly argued in *Race and Reunion* (2001), that after the war white Northerners' and Southerners' reconciliationist rhetoric squeezed from the national conversation African-Americans' memory that the war had been fought over slavery and that black people's freedom was its enduring legacy.

Reading Professor Blight retell how 10,000 black Charlestonians held the first Decoration Day for the Union dead on May 1, 1865 — and how he accidentally chanced upon documentation of the ceremony after white supremacists had worked to see that it was "forgotten" — remains a thrilling story.

While she accepts Blight's theses of the "conciliatory imperative" in late 19th-century America, Nina Silber points out that several groups of Northerners actually articulated the emancipation legacy, although they used it for their own purposes (and not to help freedpeople in the Jim Crow South).

Women's rights advocates thought that if black men in America could be freed and made citizens, the women, too, could be "emancipated." In their war against "wage slavery," Gilded Age labor leaders also invoked emancipationist rhetoric, as did both sides in the imperialist debates of the 1890s.

All of these essays were presented as papers at symposia sponsored by the American Civil War Center at Tredegar in Richmond. Editors Cooper and McCardell are to be commended for assembling them in this stimulating collection.

Reviewer: Steve Davis

Stephen Davis studied under Bell Wiley at Emory University where his doctoral dissertation topic was "Johnny Reb in Perspective: The Confederate Soldier's Image in the Southern Arts." He was book review editor for Blue & Gray magazine for more than 20 years. His next book, *What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman's Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta*, will be published by Mercer University Press.



4TH OF JULY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Thursday July 4 1861

CONCERNED CONGRESSIONAL CONCLAVE CALLED

Abraham Lincoln called a special session of Congress on this most sacred of American patriotic holidays, to deal with the extraordinary matter of the secession of states from the American union. He listed the actions taken by the "erring sisters", and the measures he had taken to control, correct, or at least oppose them. The similarities between this list and the one composed by the Founding Fathers noting the offenses of King George III, are striking. The most important military matter dealt with was the request by the President that the Congress authorize the raising of an army of 400,000 volunteers to prosecute a war to bring the Southern states back into the Union whether they wanted to be there are not.

Friday July 4 1862

SHIP SUPPORTS STARTLING SUPPLIES

As the aftermath of the Seven Days' battle continued, the fighting on land might be over with but the conflict continued on the water. Two vessels in particular had been conducting a running fight for some time. The CSS Teaser was victorious today as a lucky shot caught her opponent, the USS Maratanza, in just the right spot and exploded her boiler. When the Federals searched the wreckage of the Teaser they found a number of interesting items: floating mines ready to be laid in the James River; "peculiar fuzes" which were sent to Washington for examination; and, most intriguing of all, an observation balloon and the equipment needed to launch it. The balloon itself became an object of legend. It was made of silk for the sake of lightness. The silk, it was said, was obtained by sewing together the donated dresses of the women of Richmond.

Saturday July 4 1863

DUAL DEFEATS DOOM DIXIE

Scholars argue to this day which event was "more critical" in bringing about the victory of North over South in the war. What is not in dispute was that the two of them together combined to make a Northern

victory inevitable. In the East, Robert E. Lee gathered the remnants of the Army of Northern Virginia and began the long march home from Gettysburg.

Meade's had arranged brilliant defenses, first of the ends of his line on Cemetery Hill and then of the middle, which did not break under "Pickett's Charge" yesterday. The Confederates retreated slowly, in good order, and their only regret was that some 6000 of their most severely wounded had to be left on the field for the Yankees to care for or bury. In the West, Gen. John Pemberton selected the Fourth of July to surrender the besieged city of Vicksburg, Miss., to U.S. Grant, figuring he would get better terms today than any other. In fact they seemed surprisingly easy: all soldiers, after turning in their weapons, were given paroles and allowed to go home, although they could not fight again until the paroles expired. In fact, many just went home and never fought again. The Confederacy had lost the Mississippi River, and was cut in two. The significance of this was not lost: Confederate currency, never strong in world markets, suddenly depreciated by 1000 per cent.

Monday July 4 1864

RECONSTRUCTION REVELATIONS RELUCTANTLY REPORTED

As Grant continued to grind away at Lee's forces around Petersburg, the work in Washington was beginning on how to go about re-integrating the South into the Federal nation. The word "Reconstruction" began to be in use around this time, and virtually nobody agreed about how it should be accomplished. Abraham Lincoln was being very judicious in releasing the details of his plans, which were surprisingly conciliatory to what was, after all, a conquered nation. It was less the Democrats giving him trouble than the members of his own party, known as the Radical Republicans, including the more fanatical abolitionists. Lincoln today pocket-vetoed a measure called the Wade-Davis bill, which would have barred any man who had ever borne arms against the Union from voting or holding office. Essentially the debate was over whether Congress or the President would control the rebuilding process.

(Pulled from Civil War Interactive's This Day found here; <http://www.civilwarinteractive.com/This%20Day/thisday0704.htm>)





**Marble, 1863, by Edward Augustus Brackett
National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC**

The panel description reads as follows:

Benjamin F. Butler was a Massachusetts politician who, as a delegate at the Democratic presidential convention in the spring of 1860, voted for Jefferson Davis on the first fifty-seven ballots. A year later, at the start of the Civil War, Butler was one of the first to answer President Lincoln’s call for troops to protect Washington. Appointed a major general of volunteers by a president desperate to find able officers, Butler proved to be largely inept at military command. Ultimately, General Grant requested Butler’s removal late in the war, and Lincoln sent him back to his home in Massachusetts.

Butler was a Democratic politician in military garb fighting a Republican war, and he sorely tried the patience of Lincoln and his advisers. His heavy-handed administration of the military district of New Orleans in 1862 was especially controversial. Butler was accused of everything from issuing orders designed to harass female secessionists to pilfering the silver spoons from the house he occupied.

In the summer of 1864, Butler wrote his wife asking if she wanted to see him. If so, he continued, “Do the next best thing – send down to Brackett and get the marble bust he has done.”



DID YOU KNOW?



Close-up of flag

This quilt was made about 1860 by Mary Hughes Lord of Nashville, Tennessee. The quilt is composed of colored silk hexagons, one and three-quarter inches wide, pieced into rosettes separated by black silk hexagons. In the center is an American flag, the stripes inscribed with the names of Union generals and other luminaries in ink. The centers of some rosettes are similarly inscribed, and there are more names inscribed on the red, white, and blue silk ribbon border. Among the signatures are those of Abraham Lincoln and his son Robert, Ulysses S. Grant, Philip Sheridan, Winfield Scott, Benjamin Butler, James A. Garfield, and Chester A. Arthur. The throw was carried by Mary Hughes through the Confederate lines to Cincinnati, Ohio, where her family lived until the fall of Fort Donelson. It was later hung at Lincoln’s funeral.

Division of Social History, Textiles
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
Behring Center
Gift of Rose H. and William Craige Lord

Found here;
http://www.civilwar.si.edu/life_patrioticquilt.html

