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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

The conflict over slavery had been brewing for decades. Between the 1790s and the 1830s, America's evangelical denominations rapidly expanded, becoming the "principal subculture in American society." Before 1844, the Methodist Church was the largest organization in the country (not including the Federal Government). Methodist abolitionists pushed their National General Conference to denounce slavery as a sin. At the same time, pro-slavery Methodists sought a definitive statement that slavery was not a sin and that slave-holding clergy could continue to serve the Church.

By the early 1840s, abolitionist Methodists withdrew from the General Conference. The pro-slavery faction wanted assurances that the Methodist Episcopal Church was not "tainted with the bloodied principled Abolition" and did not view slavery as a sin. They found their ideal test in the appointment of a slaveholding Bishop.

Bishop James Andrew of Georgia owned at least 14 slaves. As delegates gathered for the 1844 General Conference, they prepared for a showdown. Northerners encouraged him to resign but Southerners urged him to remain firm. Ultimately, the General Conference voted that he should resign. This decision severed the increasingly tenuous bonds of the Methodist Church. In May 1845, Southern Methodists met in Louisville, Kentucky to organize a separate pro-slavery, Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

In the Congressional debates over the Compromise of 1850, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster both drew on the recent Methodist schism to forecast the future. For each man, the division offered a lesson Americans ignored at their peril. Calhoun explained that "the great religious denominations originally embraced the whole Union and that the strong ties which hold each denomination together formed a strong cord to hold the whole Union together."

The Methodist Churches did not reunite until 1939.

## Dennis Kohlmann, President

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 18**

**MEMBERS – 18:** Don Hayden, Vice President, Barbara Leone, Secretary, George Foxworth, Treasurer, Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Mark Carlson, Arnd Garnter, Ron Grove, Wayne Henley, James Juanitas, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nancy Samuelson, Tracy Samuelson, Richard Sickert (MAL), John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 0:**

1. Vice President Don Hayden led the Pledge, John Zasso conducted the raffle. Nancy Samuelson presented her talk about John S. RIP Ford, Ranger. He had many talents and was important in Texan and Confederacy history. He kept the cotton trade route open on the Rio Grande so Texas could trade with the rest of the Confederacy and Europe.
2. Born in South Carolina in 1815, he came from a military family and felt it was his legacy to maintain that tradition. At sixteen, he became a teacher. He became a doctor, married, and had twins, a boy and a girl.
3. He raised troops to fight for Texas independence and joined the Texas Army in 1836. In Eastern Texas, he practiced medicine. He was a lawyer, served in the Texas House of Representatives, and in 1845, he introduced the resolution to accept annexation into the United States. In Austin, he became a newspaper man and married again. After one year, his wife who he nursed personally died of tuberculosis. Devastated by her death, he stopped practicing medicine.
4. In 1846 he joined Jack Hayes, a famous Ranger, to fight in the Mexican War. The Rangers began as military; after the War, they became law enforcement. Ford and Hayes fought in Mexico. As adjutant to Hayes, he notified families of the death of their soldiers. After writing "Rest In Peace" so many times, he shortened it to R.I.P. Thus his nickname.
5. As a diplomat, he gave Santa Ana safe passage to a ship allowing him to leave. In 1846 back in Texas, he became a newspaper man again. He led volunteer troops against the Comanche and Apache Tribes. Comanches stole stock and enslaved people. As a surveyor, he helped create the Ford-Nabors Trail between San Antonio and El Paso.
6. He was a State Senator and Mayor of Austin. In 1858, he was sent to control the Cortina Army on the Rio Grande. He was involved with Richard King, L. Kennedy, and Charles Stillman who controlled trade on the River. He was instrumental in secret societies like the Knights of the Golden Circle. He worked with John Quitman to take over Cuba and spread slavery. He counteracted the Union Blockade by getting all the riverboat captains to register under the Mexican flag so they could trade with the world with impunity.
7. He felt the War had become a rich man's War and a poor man's fight. He organized the Sons of the South to benefit the military, Indian soldier's families, and civilians. When Federal troops occupied Fort Brown, he took the Fort back. At Palmito Ranch, the last battle of the War, he defeated the U.S. soldiers, not wanting to surrender to Black troops. After the War, he was able to get Kennedy and King paroled. Ford was living in Mexico, broke, but King helped to support him. He became Mayor of Brownsville and helped to write the new Texas Constitution. He established one of the first schools for Blacks and as Superintendent of the Texas School for the Deaf and Dumb; he made it a useful institution. He died in 1897.
8. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on June 12th was \$6,455.15.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2019

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 10th	To Be Determined	"To Be Determined"
August 14th	Dr. Tad Smith	"The Fuse to the War: The Dred Scott Decision"
September 11th	Richard Sickert	"To Be Determined"
October 9th	James Juanitas	"The Navy in the Civil War"
November 13th	Jim Lane	"The Great Locomotive Chase"
December 11th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"General Order 100"

## 2019 Membership

The 2019 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2019. 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)

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 26 to Sunday, July 28, 2019 - The **Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War** will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The weekend's events include lectures by noted historians, and field trips to Historic Jamestowne and James River Plantation sites. This will be the **Society for Women & the Civil War's 20th Conference**, and it is sure to provide a wealth of information around the Conference Theme of "**Women of the Peninsula.**" For Conference information and registration, go to: <http://www.swcw.org/annual-swcw-conference.html> or feel free to contact Pasadena CWRT member Janet Whaley at [Janet1860@charter.net](mailto:Janet1860@charter.net).

## MEMBER WE LOST

**Joan Marie (Postle) Beitzel, born In Sacramento in 1939, and entered into rest on May 31, 2019 in Elk Grove. Joan was laid to rest in the Historic 1859 Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Elk Grove.**

# Kate Hewitt

On July 1, 1863, the Daughters of Charity were on their knees praying that the clashing Armies would not destroy their convent or confiscate all their food stores. Their rectory in Emmitsburg, Maryland, only nine miles from where the battle was being fought, had been taken over and was being used as headquarters for the Union Army.

Among the first day's victims of the Battle of Gettysburg was First Corps Commander Union General John Fulton Reynolds. Reynolds was the highest ranking soldier of either side on the field. He had been shot by a Confederate sniper's minie ball in the base of his skull. Aides carried his body from the field and placed him in an ambulance. When they loosened his collar, they discovered a gold chain around Reynolds' neck. From it hung a Roman Catholic medal and a small ring engraved, "*Dear Kate.*" Reynolds' orderly, Sergeant Charles H. Veil, was surprised. John Reynolds was a Presbyterian. Veil also noticed that Reynolds' 1841 West Point class ring was missing.

General Reynolds' body was sent to Baltimore to be embalmed and then on to Spruce Street in Philadelphia to the home of his sister, Catherine Reynolds Landis. He was placed in the parlor for viewing. Sergeant Veil accompanied the body home, riding on Reynolds' horse.

On the morning of July 3, Catharine Landis opened her front door to find a stranger standing there. The rest of the Reynolds family gathered behind her and gasped when the young woman introduced herself as John's fiancée, Kate Hewitt.



Catharine Mary Hewitt was born in April, 1836, in the upstate town of Stillwater in Saratoga County, New York. When Kate was eight years old, her younger brother, Moses and her mother, Laura, died within a month of each other. Her father, Samuel, was said to be unstable. Her grandmother, Catharine Edmond, was illiterate. Kate didn't hang around her family for long. In 1856, she left for San Francisco, California. She found work as a governess for the G.R. Woodward family. Not happy with her situation there, she left and went to work in a convent school for the Daughters of Charity. It was there she became enamored of Catholicism and took the first steps toward conversion.

John Reynolds was stationed in San Francisco and perhaps this is where the couple first met. Though there was a sixteen year age difference, the two fell in love. After three years, John had to leave to take up his new position as Commandant of West Point. Kate went to the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Philadelphia to finalize her conversion.

The anti-Catholic Know Nothing Party was on the wane in 1860 but many of their prejudices survived. The Army was old-fashioned and John could not afford to allow his superiors to learn of his future wife's religion. "Mixed" marriages were frowned upon by the conservative classes. John and Kate had vowed to marry after the War but, for the time being, they needed to keep their engagement secret. If John did not survive the War, Kate had promised him that she would enter a religious community. John never mentioned Kate in any of his correspondence to his family. Perhaps he feared their reaction to her religion and rejection of his choice for a wife.

John was wrong. His sisters drew Kate into the family home with warm welcomes. Kate showed them their brother's West Point insignia ring. She had used the ring to stamp its seal in wax in all her letters to John. Kate was taken to the parlor where John's body lay in state. She placed his ring in the casket and removed her own small cross from his neck for a keepsake. Then she kept an all-night vigil next to his coffin with his sister, Eleanor.

Overwhelmed with grief, Kate was unable to attend the funeral the next morning.

General John Reynolds was buried in Lancaster Cemetery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1863. Eight days later, Kate Hewitt applied to the Daughters of Charity to become a postulant. Her first assignment was at Mount Hope Retreat, a psychiatric hospital in Baltimore. Two of John's sisters, Eleanor and Harriet, visited "*dear Kate*" there regularly. Even Sergeant Veil paid her a visit. They all agreed that she seemed to be happy with her vocation. Later on, Kate was sent to teach at Saint Joseph's School in Albany, New York. She was given the name Sister Hildegardis. The Reynolds' family kept in touch over the years, finding comfort in their relationship with Kate.

On September 3, 1868, Sister Hildegardis formally repudiated her desire to become a nun. Perhaps the life was too spartan or she had lost her faith. Maybe she had tired of community life. Some whispered that she had a violent temper and could not get along with the Sisters. Kate never confided her reasons for leaving the cloistered life to

anyone. She had not taken her final vows yet and was allowed to leave without incident.

The Reynolds' family tried desperately to find her but it was as if she had vanished into thin air. It is believed that Kate taught at a private girls' school in Albany before returning to her childhood home in Stillwater, NY. Nothing is known of this period in Kate's life. Afflicted with a severe cough for many years, some say she became a sickly recluse. It is known that she never married but otherwise it is unclear how Kate spent her last years.



Catharine Mary Hewitt died of “*bloody lungs*” on May 5, 1902, thirty nine years after the death of her fiancé. She is buried in her hometown of Stillwater, New York in the non-Catholic Stillwater Union Cemetery. Her octagonal tombstone has the Hebrew word *Mizpah* carved into it. It translates, “*May God watch over you until we are together again.*” The birthdate on her tombstone is believed to be incorrect.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# *The Society for Women and the Civil War*

## “WOMEN OF THE PENINSULA”



**20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JULY 26-28, 2019**

**WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

**CONFERENCE LOCATION: COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY**

### **SPEAKERS AND ADVENTURES**

SPEAKERS INCLUDE PROMINENT HISTORIANS CARSON O. HUDSON, JR., SHELBY HARRIEL, SARAH BIERLE, MARK SUMMERS AND BETSY ESTILOW. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE AN ESCORTED BUS TOUR OF JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS WHICH FIGURED IN THE PENINSULA CAMPAIGN - HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLES PLAYED BY WOMEN IN THE CAMPAIGN - AND A RANGER-LED TOUR OF HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE'S CIVIL WAR ACTIONS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A SPECIAL DINNER AT A COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TAVERN, A SILENT AUCTION AND A COMPLIMENTARY HOSPITALITY SUITE.

***FOR FULL CONFERENCE DETAILS, LODGING  
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE VISIT  
WWW.SWCW.ORG OR EMAIL  
SWCW1865@GMAIL.COM. REGULAR  
REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE UNTIL 30 JUNE 2019.***



# 2019 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

## Civil War Leadership, 1861 - 1865

November 8 - 10, 2019, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

### Our Speakers are:

**Chris Mackowski:** A Professor of Journalism & Mass Communication at Saint Bonaventure University, & the author of more than 10 books. He works with the National Parks Service & is the founder of the Emerging Civil War Blog.

**David A. Powell:** A Vice-President of Airsped, Inc., a delivery firm. He has published many articles in magazines & historical simulations of different battles. He specializes & leads tours on the Battle of Chickamauga.

**Sarah Kay Bierle:** A Managing Editor for Emerging Civil War's Blog. She has spent the last few years researching, writing, & speaking across the Country about the American Civil War.

**Paul Kahan:** An expert on the political, diplomatic, & economic history of the United States in the Nineteenth Century. Dr. Kahan has published several books & is a former resident of Sacramento.

**Jim Stanbery:** A retired Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than thirty years. He is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Theodore P. Savas:** Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

**Edwin L. Kennedy Jr.:** A graduate of West Point & former Professor of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College History Department & Combat Studies. He is the leader of staff rides, including the Battle of Chickamauga.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the Hotel.

Partial day attendance: **Friday Only** is \$50; **Saturday Only** is \$125; **Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only** is \$50; **Sunday Only** is \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com) . [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#) has rooms set aside for us at \$139 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

### Name / Organization as you want it on your badge (Please Print):

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_