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July, 2024

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# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
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<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

Greetings everyone,

I hope everyone is staying cool during the local heat wave.

Because Gettysburg occurred 161 years ago today, I read an article in my "Gettysburg Companion Book" which told about the last surviving Soldier of Gettysburg. According to Professor Jay S. Hoar of the University of Maine at Farmington, the acknowledged expert on the last Survivors of the Civil War, Gettysburg's last Survivor was James Marion Lurvey - born December 2, 1847, died September 17, 1950, aged 102 years, 9 months, 15 days.

Lurvey enlisted when he was 14 years old as a drummer boy in Company "A" of the 4th Massachusetts Infantry. Lurvey's granddaughter, Mrs. Norma Kwist, supplied Professor Hoar with the following information, later published in 1996 in the Gettysburg Magazine, Issue 16. According to Mrs. Kwist, her grandfather said the following of Gettysburg:

"At Gettysburg, I was still a drummer boy. During much of that Battle, I served in the Medical Corps. Shot and shell and the screams of dying men and boys filled the humid air. A noncom told me to put away my drum. He tied a red rag around my left arm and told me I was now in the Medical Corps. I told him I was not big enough to lift my end of a stretcher, so he assigned me to a surgical field tent. It was stifling inside. I thought I'd keel over when they told me my assignment - (wisht then I could've hefted a stretcher) - I was to stand by and carry out the Soldiers arms and legs as the doctors amputated them. I guess that was the day (July 3rd - 4th) I grew up and left boyhood forever. And I wasn't yet sixteen."

The next time you think of the heat, just think how hot it was 161 years ago during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Have a Happy 4th of July.

**James C. Juanitas, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
**Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento**

**ATTENDANCE – 14**

**MEMBERS – 12:** James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Ron Grove, (MAL); Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, Stephen Shiflett, & Peggy Tveden.

**GUESTS – 2:** Bernie & Kathy Quinn.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:01 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Juanitas announced that our meeting location to R Vida in Citrus Heights starting in July 2024.
3. President Juanitas asked for volunteers for the vacant Board positions. There were no responses.
4. President Juanitas announced the passing and Memorial Service for long-time SCWRT Member Dr. Donald J. Hayden. Dr. Hayden passed on April 21, 2024 in Gardnerville, Nevada and his Memorial Service and burial was at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery near Dixon, California on May 20, 2024. Dr. (Lieutenant Commander) Hayden was a United States Navy Veteran and was laid to rest with his wife, Claire "Scottie," also a US Navy Veteran.
5. New Members and Guests were introduced. Two Guests, Bernie Quinn (the speaker) and his wife Kathy.
6. The raffle was conducted by Vice President Carol Breiter. The raffle raised \$33.00.
7. The program was presented by Bernie Quinn. The topic was: "Death of the Army of Northern Virginia." When General Grant became the Commanding General of the Union Army, his drive was to Richmond. Battle by battle after heavy losses, he had the Army of the Potomac move around the Army of Northern Virginia until they were in trenches around Richmond and Petersburg. Before General Grant, the Union Army would retreat back towards Washington City after a battle.
8. The Confederates attacked various positions including Fort Stedman but were driven back to their positions. In the early Spring of 1865, The Union Army broke a Confederate position (Five Forks) southwest of Petersburg and the Confederates evacuated Petersburg and Richmond and headed west with the hope of joining with General Joseph Johnston in North Carolina.
9. After a few battles and a lack of supplies, General Robert E. Lee decided to surrender. Elmer McClain's home in Appomattox Court House was selected as a meeting place on April 9, 1865. A formal stacking of arms happened on April 12, 1865, approximately 28,000 soldiers surrendered and paroled. Union forces exceeded 63,000.
10. On April 26, General Joseph Johnston surrendered his forces (approximately 90,000 troops) to General William T. Sherman in Durham Station, North Carolina.
11. After questions and answers, the evening ended at 8:05 PM.
12. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on June 12th was \$5,450.71. Thanks to Carol Breiter, members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$33.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2024

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 10th	"Robert Orr"	"Civil War Music"
August 14th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Gaines Mills"
September 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
December 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

## 2024 Membership

The 2024 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2024. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a 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

## NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the first day 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.

## **Friends of Civil War Alcatraz**

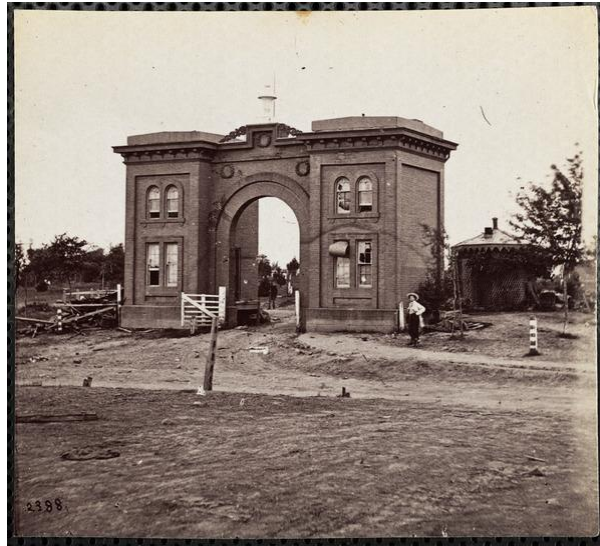
The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) is a group of individuals interested in the Civil War history of Alcatraz island. We are made up of teachers, veterans, historians, and others who like to research and read about how Alcatraz became an important Fort for the protection of San Francisco during the Civil War.

Some of our members are also National Park Service volunteers who assist the rangers in giving public programs, in uniform, about the Union soldiers stationed on the Island and interesting events that occurred there between 1859 and 1865. We publish a newsletter every month, which can be found on our website [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org).

We also visit schools and organizations to tell that early history of the Island, long before it became the notorious Federal prison. And we conduct living history days twice a year, in conjunction with the American Civil War Association, to give the public an idea of what the Island was like as a Union Fort.

**Submitted by Steve Johnson**

# Evergreen Cemetery



Cemetery Gate

Evergreen Cemetery - formerly called Citizen's Cemetery and Ever Green Cemetery - is a historic 29 1/2-acre rural cemetery located just outside Gettysburg Borough, in Cumberland Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, United States. It is part of Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District and is surrounded by Gettysburg National Military Park and Soldiers' National Cemetery.

The Cemetery played a strategic role in the July 1 to 3, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. Four months after the Battle, at the dedication of the immediately adjacent National Cemetery, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the "Gettysburg Address" from a platform in Evergreen Cemetery.

The Evergreen Cemetery gatehouse was designed by Philadelphia architect Stephen Decatur Button, built by local contractors George and Henry Chritzman, and completed in November 1855.

Evergreen Cemetery is eponymous with Cemetery Hill, the landform noted as the keystone of the Union position during the Battle of Gettysburg. Major General Oliver Otis Howard lined the Cemetery's high ground with cannons, turning it into an "artillery platform" and made its gatehouse into XI Corps (Union Army) Headquarters.

At dusk on July 2, five Louisiana regiments under Brigadier General Harry T. Hays and three North Carolina regiments under Colonel Isaac E. Avery commenced the Battle of East Cemetery Hill, charging Howard's artillery batteries from the east. "Federal soldiers in the Cemetery laid many of the tombstones on the ground" to limit damage, and some of the XI Corps batteries and infantry used the grave monuments "for shelter from the enemy's fire." Historian Frederick Hawthorne wrote of Howard's successful defense. "Lying in reserve in the Evergreen Cemetery, they (73rd Pennsylvania

Infantry) rushed out through the Cemetery gateway to help drive the Confederates away from Rickett's and Weldrich's batteries."

Evergreen experienced three days as battlefield, and its resulting condition inspired a Union officer to lament "A beautiful Cemetery it was, but now is trodden down, laid a waste, desecrated. The fences are all down, the many graves have been run over, beautiful lots with iron fences and splendid monuments have been destroyed or soiled, and our infantry and artillery occupy those sacred grounds where the dead are sleeping. It is enough to make one mourn." Two Confederate soldiers mortally wounded during the battle were buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

The consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg took place on November 19, 1863. The speaker's platform used by orator Edward Everett, and then by President Abraham Lincoln to deliver his Gettysburg Address, was located just east of the National Cemetery on the grounds of Evergreen Cemetery.

The Evergreen Cemetery gatehouse survived the Battle of Gettysburg. In the Battle's aftermath, Elizabeth Thorn (wife of Cemetery's caretaker) buried approximately 100 fallen soldiers in the vicinity.

Also buried in Evergreen Cemetery: Jennie Wade, the only civilian killed in the Battle. John Burns, the civilian who joined the Battle on the first day. David Willis who came up with the idea of a National Cemetery and hosted President Lincoln on the way to the Cemetery inauguration.



A modern image of the Cemetery gatehouse

# Woman of the Month

## *Antonia Ford Willard*

*Spy, CSA*

*Born July 23, 1838 in Fairfax Court House, Virginia*

*Died February 14, 1871 in Washington, DC*

*Buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, DC*



Born to successful merchant Edward Ford and his wife Julia, Antonia grew up in a well-to-do family and received a good education. She was a graduate of the Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute.

At the start of the Civil War, Antonia's family were secessionists, and her brother Charles joined the Confederate Army, serving under J.E.B Stuart. As Fairfax Court House was halfway between Washington, DC and

Manassas, Virginia, Antonia's father opened his house to Union officers, while keeping the family allegiances a secret. Antonia went to work using her youth and charm to learn about Union plans, which she sent to Stuart prior to the First Battle of Manassas. On October 7, 1861, Stuart presented Antonia with a "commission" as an honorary aide-de camp, ordering she be "obeyed, respected and admired" as such.

Antonia continued to pass intelligence along to Confederate officers, including John Singleton Mosby, and most historians agree that she was instrumental in Mosby's capture of Union General Stoughton in Fairfax Court House on March 9, 1863. Lafayette Baker of the Union Secret Service investigated the capture and quickly focused on Antonia and her father, given that General Stoughton's mother and several of his aides had stayed at the Ford house, and there were rumors that Stoughton himself had called on Antonia on at least one occasion. Antonia and her father were arrested by Union authorities, and a search of the house produced Stuart's commission, which was taken as proof that Antonia was in the employ of the Confederate Army. Under interrogation by a female agent of the Secret Service, Antonia confessed to spying for Mosby.

Charged with espionage, she was jailed at Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. She was never tried for the charge, and was released from prison after six months due to intense lobbying on her behalf by her arresting officer, Major Joseph Willard, on condition that she take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

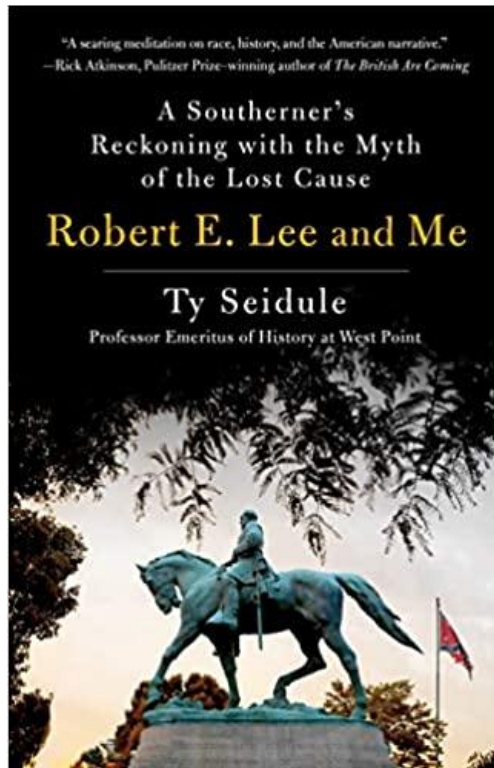
Antonia and the Major had fallen in love during her incarceration. They were married on March 10, 1864, with Joseph resigning his Army commission. The couple settled in Washington, DC, where Joseph managed the famous Willard Hotel owned by his family. Antonia gave birth to three children, but only one, Joseph Edward, survived infancy. Antonia died in 1871 at the age of 32. Her cause of death is unclear, although some sources claimed it was an indirect result of the privations she endured while imprisoned. Her husband never remarried.

**Submitted by the "Society for Women and the Civil War - [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)"**

## Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause

By Ty Seidule. New York, St. Martin's Press, 2021. 304 pp. \$27.99 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-250-23926-6.

Reviewed by Douglas R. Egerton. (LeMoyne College). Published on H-War (May, 2021). Commissioned by Margaret Sankey.



Coming to terms with the hard truth that nearly everything one has been led to believe about their state's history and its past leadership is false is no easy task, especially when virtually everybody surrounding you believes in the myths as fervently as you once did. Ty Seidule, an Emeritus Professor of History at West Point and a thirty-six-year career officer with the US Army, presents his readers with a brutally honest confessional of his long journey from a devout believer in Lost Cause lore to a clear-eyed historian of Virginia's complicated relationship with slavery, race, and especially the legend of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Elegantly written, often funny, and always unsparring when discussing his somewhat slow awakening, *Robert E. Lee and Me* makes for essential reading as the nation wrestles with the death of George Floyd and debates the fate of Confederate statues and memorials.

Almost from his birth on July 3, 1962--ninety-nine years to the day after Robert E. Lee ordered his men to advance across the fields toward Emmitsburg Road at Gettysburg--Seidule idolized the Virginia General. One of his earliest chapter books was George Swift Trow's *Meet Robert E. Lee*, its cover depicting the General sitting astride Traveler



and gazing into the middle distance. Published by Random House the year after the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., the volume included but two images of African Americans. "Lee knew that slavery was wrong," Trow insisted, adding that Lee believed "it was bad for the slave and worse for the man who owned him" (p. 20). The fact that Mary Custis Lee's plantation and mansion relied on unfree labor was something that Trow neglected to mention, but also something that few seven-year-old readers would think to question. As he grew older, Seidule moved on to Walt Disney's Uncle Remus Stories, published to accompany Disney's Song of the South (1946) film, and then *Gone with the Wind* (1936). As a teenager, Seidule read Margaret Mitchell's novel "for pleasure but believed it as history." More recently, Dr. Seidule revisited the novel, meticulously counting its 236 uses of racial slurs and the N-word. "It was worse than I thought," he concluded (p. 29).

As a boy, Seidule grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, only two miles from where Lee had been raised. He attended Episcopal High School, a private boy's boarding school that dated back to 1839. Its Headmaster from 1870 to 1913, Minor Blackford, had served under Confederate General James Longstreet. Seidule's father taught history and coached football and track. Several of his fellow students were direct descendants of Lee. Even as the Washington Metropolitan Area grew and the neighborhoods around Seidule's became more cosmopolitan, "the high school," as it was called by its defenders, remained stubbornly wedded to Old South myths. Only as an adult did Seidule discover stories of Black activists like Samuel Tucker, who had to walk twenty-two blocks from his Alexandria house to catch a streetcar into Washington, as Alexandria had no public schools for black children. In later years, after Tucker completed law school on the eve of World War II, he led a movement to forcibly integrate the city's public libraries. "Samuel Tucker should have been my hero," Seidule now sighs. "Instead, I worshipped Robert Lee and his Confederate colleagues" (p. 59).

When it came time to choose a college, Seidule visited a number of campuses, but there was never any doubt that he would select Washington and Lee University, an institution he regarded as "a collegiate Tara" (p. 111). At times in this chapter, the saga of the campus becomes utterly surreal. Readers learn that Lee's warhorse, Traveler, died soon after he did and was buried in a nearby ravine. But in 1907, for the centennial of Lee's birth, the bones were exhumed and screwed together into a standing skeleton for display in the Campus's natural history building. The bones continued to disintegrate, however, and so finally they were reburied in a wooden box as close to Lee's remains as possible. Visitors to the School continue to leave carrots and apples on the grave to feed the ghostly Traveler as he carries his master in the next life. Less strange but far funnier was the response of Seidule's Northern-born, Catholic wife, when he first took his family to see the Campus and visit the Lee Chapel. There, atop the altar, was a statue of Lee, situated where more conventional chapels might place Jesus. "Get me out of here," she gasped. His wife was right, Seidule conceded, for as a student he had "genuflected at the altar of Saint Bob" (p. 121).

At times, one wonders why Seidule was so painfully slow to come to terms with the obvious truth that the fight over slavery in the territories, and the desire of White Southerners to protect and expand its ownership of Black Southerners, prompted

Southern States to secede upon Abraham Lincoln's election. Or that those who fought for what Charleston editors bragged was a "slave republic" and raised their sword against the country that had educated them at West Point were dishonorable men. Yet few of us have had to rebel against a long lifetime of propaganda. This reviewer, who is six years older than Dr. Seidule, was raised in an Arizona household with an aged neo-Confederate grandmother who was born in Nashville in 1885 and lived to be ninety-five. But her complaints about the miniseries *Roots* (1977) as "all lies" had little impact on my formative years, largely because my parents were more embarrassed than supportive of her rants. Professor Seidule had a far more comprehensive and insidious early indoctrination to overcome.

Once he did so, however, he did so with a vengeance. One hopes that students and non-academics who still buy into any part of the Lee myth will read this book, as they certainly should. Seidule demolishes any claims that Lee was not proslavery or that he fought only because he could not turn his back on his beloved Virginia. Many of Lee's close friends and relatives, Seidule demonstrates, remained loyal to the United States throughout the War. His cousin, Samuel Phillips Lee, served in the Navy, while Samuel's brother John Fitzgerald Lee, a West Pointer, worked as Judge Advocate in the US Army. Even Lee's sister, Anne Lee Marshall, stood with the Union, and her son fought in blue. Anne was so furious at her brother's decision to side with the Confederacy that she never spoke to him again.

On the day that Virginia seceded, Lee was one of eight West Point colonels from Virginia. Of that group, seven remained loyal to the Nation that had educated them. When looking at all of the slave-state colonels who had graduated from West Point, Seidule adds, the total comes to fifteen, and twelve of that number, or 80 percent, refused to follow their states into disunion. "Growing up in Virginia," the author observes, "I saw no monument to these brave and loyal men." The monuments, rather, were erected to celebrate Lee "the outlier." To say that Lee chose to renounce the oath he had taken to his country is not a "presentist" position, Seidule insists, and with good reason. The majority of Southern colonels who remained with the United States uniformly believed that Lee had "dishonored thirty years of service" (p. 223).

In September 2017, shortly after White supremacists waving Confederate flags marched through Charlottesville, Virginia, chanting, "White lives matter," Dr. Seidule was invited to return to Washington and Lee and lecture on Confederate memory. With good reason, he worried about how his speech would be received. Speaking between a statue of Lee on his right and a portrait of the Confederate General on his left, Professor Seidule explained why he believed Lee had committed treason and done so in the cause of racial control through slavery. As he finished, the audience rose in applause. Even in Lexington, it seems, students were ready to put aside cherished myths. One hopes they, and so many other White Americans, will now read this passionate, honest confessional. (Part memoir or not, however, this reviewer believes that works of history deserve an index.)

**Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.**