



Battle Cry

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

Silver Williams is our speaker for Wednesday August 8th. Silver has shown an interest in the past for presentations dealing with women's contributions to the War. She does quite a bit of reading and carefully notes the women and their remarkable efforts. We can expect an exciting and interesting presentation from Silver as in the past. Her theme for the 8th is "Women Spies."

We had a visit from Doug Ose at our last meeting, who was interested in speaking with the SCWRT board. Doug, as most of you know, is the approved operator of the Gibson Ranch Regional Park where the May re-enactments are held each year. Doug's interest in speaking with us was to thank us for our continuing support and to query up for any recommendations we might want to make for improvements in the three day event. We discussed it for a while where we surfaced some of the issues which have an impact on the operations. Paul Ruud volunteered to take the lead on developing a coordination meeting with Dawn who runs the ranch, the Re-enactor representatives, and Doug. This meeting will probably take place sometime in early 2013.

A reminder to everyone that the November 2012 West Coast Conference is coming up shortly and those people who want to attend probably want to take advantage of the conference cost discount and the low cost for the rooms at the Hotel Hanford in Costa Mesa.

Bob Hanley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, July 11, 2012
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 27

MEMBERS – 20

Robert E. Hanley, President
Anne E. Peasley, Vice President
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer
Steven Andrews
Roy Bishop
Alan Geiken
Don Hayden, IPP
Nina Henley, MAL
Wayne Henley, MAL
Lowell Lardie

Nina Henley, MAL
Wayne Henley, MAL
Ken Lentz
Mary Lou Lentz
Rick Peasley
John Rice
Paul Ruud
Nancy Samuelson
Roxanne Spizzirri
Bob Williams

GUESTS - 7

Tom Lubas
Judy Lubas
Esther Boeck
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Chris Highsmith
Doug Ose

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Bob Hanley.
2. President Hanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Hanley introduced the guests.
4. President Hanley conducted a vote for Maxine Wollen as Secretary. The votes were in favor.
5. President Hanley advised members and guests of the registration form for the Orange County Conference.
6. President Hanley gave a short book review and recommendation, for Queen of the Northern Mines and Life in the Shadows by Robert Lincoln.
7. President Hanley introduced the speaker for the meeting, Tom Lubas, of the North Bay CWRT. His presentation was a condensed version of the life of General Benjamin Butler, AKA “Beast Butler” by people in New Orleans. He presented a side of General Butler that is not commonly known, that showed the General to have a kind side of his personality, in addition to the “Beast” side.
8. President Hanley thanked the speaker and presented him with a bottle of wine.
9. Anne Peasley sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

11. Doug Ose was present at the meeting. He thanked us for the volunteer work at Gibson Ranch in May. He was also looking for feedback on how the event can be made better. Several suggestions were offered. Paul Ruud suggested a small group of members meet to brainstorm further, and then make a presentation of all ideas to Ose. This was agreed upon; Paul will be the coordinator.

Maxine Wollen, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance as of 7-11-11 at the end of the meeting was \$2,775.84. Thanks to Anne Peasley, members and guests, the raffle brought in \$51.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer



BOOK REVIEWS



Army at Home: Women and the Civil War on the Northern Home Front

By Judith Giesberg

(December 2009 Civil War News)

Illustrated, endnotes, bibliography, index, 232 pp., 2009. University of North Carolina Press, 116 S. Boundary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3080, \$35 plus shipping.

“To the victor go the spoils.” “History is written by the victors.” While these quotations explain quite a bit of our military history, they do not apply to Northern women during and after the American Civil War.

Many books describe the hardships and deprivations Southern women encountered. Countless statues were erected as memorials to the plight of Southern women. Yet very little has been written about women in the Northern states and, proportionately, very few statues memorializing the efforts of Northern women exist.

Judith Giesberg, Assistant Professor of History at Villanova University, provides a concise and in-depth study that addresses this shortcoming in *Army at Home: Women and the Civil War on the Northern Home Front*.

It is neatly divided into six easy to read and insightful sections, which explore gender and race relations, socio-economic status, women entering the workforce, women entering political arenas and the social/political perceptions of the time.

Many of the discussions are filtered through the underlying theme of how society reacted toward the fact that more women were forced into roles previously held by men. Perhaps the following statement from the introduction sums it up best: “This book unsettles the wartime imagery of women

standing still in anticipation of their sons’ and husbands’ return.”

Some individuals think that since the vast majority of Civil War battles were fought in the Southern states, that the women of the North felt very little impact from the demands of war. Giesberg dispels this misconception by focusing her research on rural agrarian and middle class manufacturing communities and communities with large concentrations of African American women.



Many women became heads of household, farmers, textile or munitions workers, while still performing the socially expected roles of mother and nurturer of children.

Women of the North were frequently forced to enter the workforce at very young ages. Many antebellum women were not prepared socially or politically for the rigorous workload that was required in order to save their families. Others were forced to manage farms. Still others relied on the support of kinfolk or neighbors.

Giesberg’s book accomplishes two very important goals. The first is to provide readers with a solid account of the hardships, sacrifices and deprivations endured on the Northern home front. The second goal is to explore some of the reasons why Northern women did not get the same amount of recognition as their Southern counterparts.

Her analysis is based on first-hand accounts, using the case studies of various women from different demographics and areas. Northern women did not sit

back and wait for their men to return. Instead, many went to the government for financial aid or jobs.

Some of these women found that the obstacles in obtaining aid were overwhelming. Others simply decided to become involved and made significant changes in the system and the dynamics of government operations.

As a result of this changing environment, women became involved in roles previously dominated by men. This caused many Northerners to regard what women did as purely support that helped the war effort. They weren't seen as enduring the same types of hardships that the men had, worrying about the war and the families they left behind.

Upon their return, many of these men were surprised to see the changes that had occurred and their coping mechanism was to downplay the contributions their womenfolk had made.

First-hand case studies, detailed endnotes, a sound bibliography and a well-organized index made this book easy to read. The illustrations provide a good depiction of both the women involved and the obstacles encountered. At \$35, the book is reasonably priced based on the research involved.

Giesberg has done an excellent job addressing a topic not discussed in adequate detail previously. This book deserves a place in local libraries and on the bookshelves of anyone interested in the contributions women made during the American Civil War.

Reviewer:

Richard J. Blumberg

Richard J. Blumberg has a master's degree with honors in Civil War studies. He is past president of the Houston Civil War Round Table and is a speaker for that group and the Society of Women in the Civil War. He also reviews books for the Blue and Gray Education Society.



Occupied Women: Gender, Military Occupation and the American Civil War

Edited by LeeAnn Whites and Alecia P. Long

(June 2010 Civil War News)

Illustrated, introduction, endnotes, acknowledgements, appendix, index, 256 pp., 2009, Louisiana State University Press, <http://www.lsu.edu/lisupress>,

This collection of essays is one of those rare books that provides unique insights into women's roles in the Civil War. It deals with this topic in a fresh and entirely different way. While most women's studies focus on the domestic role of females, these essays probe the largely unexplored roles women assumed when encountering total warfare.

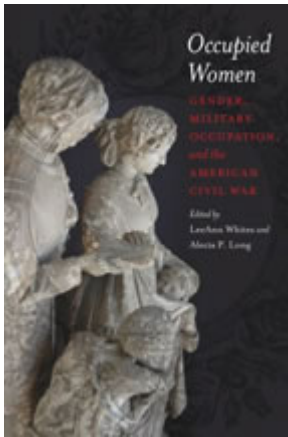
The first of three categories deals with "Gender Relations and the Development of Union Military Policy." The essays in this section address how women used their femininity to affect how they were treated in a variety of situations.

Gen. Benjamin Butler's order number 28 in New Orleans is the primary focus of the first article, which discusses how gender and role expectations shifted in order for some women to cope with their situations. As a result of these shifting expectations, women directly influenced military practices.

Another essay deals with how women handled the violation of their once-respected and revered privacy in their homes and bedrooms. Many women spoke out vehemently about the sudden loss of respect and genteel civility that was previously afforded them.

The last essay shows how physical abuse sparked certain women into activist behavior while others meekly and discreetly remained silent.

In the second category are four essays dealing with "Occupied Women and the War at Home." Unlike many other women's studies that focus on the day-to-day aspects of human survival, these essays explain how civilians can also wage war in a variety of ways.



The Civil War arguably was the first total war in American history. Like many modern wars, it frequently was hard to identify the enemy. As these essays indicate, many active participants did not wear uniforms or use conventional means of warfare. Instead they were women delivering mail or conducting guerilla or spy activities to further their causes.

The third section, “Occupations within Occupation: Race, Class and Culture,” explores the difficulties women experienced not only due to geographic location and family separation, but also because of ethnicity and status. The three articles in this section provide detailed insight on the challenging struggles of poor women and black women during the war. The articles are well-researched, and each tells a compelling story. Each essay can stand alone. The purpose of each article is clearly articulated and supported with meticulous detail. The book receives high marks and is well worth the price. It is a valuable research tool for those interested in women’s studies.

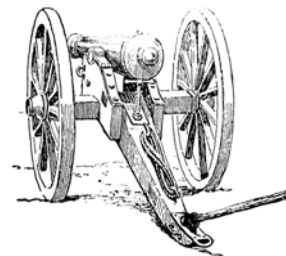
Reviewer: Richard J. Blumberg

Richard J. Blumberg has spoken to the Houston Civil War Round Table and Conference on Women in the Civil War and is a coach and mentor to students wishing to do Civil War study projects for National History Day.



DID YOU KNOW?

The only woman allowed in Sherman’s camps became known as “Mother Bickerdyke” to thousands of Union soldiers, famous for her ability to bypass bureaucracy, scrounge together supplies, and help run army field hospitals. Her talents ranged from brewing coffee “for her boys” to assisting in amputations. After the war ended, she moved on to the courtroom as an attorney, helping Union veterans with legal issues.



CIVIL WAR

Living History Day



Fort Point at the Presidio, San Francisco

Saturday, 18 August 2012, 10 am - 5 pm

Come experience history first hand! Demonstrations include musicians, infantry and artillery drill, medicine in the 1800s, and the daily life of soldiers and civilians of the era.

Fort Point is a National Historic site located in the Presidio under the southern anchorage of the Golden Gate Bridge. Additional parking is available at the Crissy Field lot near the Warming Hut and on the hill overlooking the Fort.
FREE admission.

For more information, contact the Fort Point Rangers at (415) 556-1693 or www.20thmaine.net