



**Volume 53, No. 8  
August, 2013**

**2013 Officers:**

**Bob Hanley**  
President

[acivilwar@aol.com](mailto:acivilwar@aol.com)

**Don Hayden**

Immediate Past President  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**Anne Peasley**  
Vice President

[apeasley@wildblue.net](mailto:apeasley@wildblue.net)

**Silver Williams**

Program Director  
[snw5678@aol.com](mailto:snw5678@aol.com)

(916) 408-4574

**Maxine Wollen**  
Secretary

[factsofmax@gmail.com](mailto:factsofmax@gmail.com)

**George W. Foxworth**  
Treasurer

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

**Nina Henley**

Member at Large

[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**Wayne Henley**

Member at Large

[whenlev@surewest.net](mailto:whenlev@surewest.net)

**Brent ten Pas**

Newsletter Editor

[brentrtp@gmail.com](mailto:brentrtp@gmail.com)

**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:**

Now is a good time to fill the vacancies we need to fill in our club offices. Brent will be resigning effective the end of the year and must be replaced. I'll complete my two year tenure the end of December. We have established a search committee to identify candidates to fill the open spaces in our offices.

Paul Ruud has volunteered to chair the committee and has both Don and Anne helping. Please look at the offices to be filled and make some suggestions.

Please join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, when we will have the privilege to hear our Immediate Past President Don Haydon give a presentation entitled, "The Gettysburg of the West: The 1862 Confederate Invasion of New Mexico."

Until then,

**Bob Hanley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, July 10, 2013**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 38**

**MEMBERS – 25**

Robert E. Hanley, President  
Anne M. Peasley, Vice President  
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer  
James M. Armstrong  
George D. Beitzel  
Joan M. Beitzel  
Roy Bishop  
Monica S. Foxworth  
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Donald J. Hayden, IPP  
Scottie Hayden  
Nina L. Henley, MAL  
Wayne J. Henley, MAL

James Juanitas  
Dennis Kohlmann  
Lowell L. Lardie  
Kim Grace Long  
Vivian S. Miller  
Rick A. Peasley  
Horst Penning  
John Rice  
Roxanne E. Spizzirri  
Robert A. Williams  
Silver N. Williams, PD  
John V. Zasso

**GUESTS – 13**

Esther Boeck  
Terry Brown  
Paul Burke  
Harvey D. Cain  
George Costenbader  
Diane Doyle  
Chris Highsmith  
Rick Merky  
Chris Osborne  
Ted Savas  
Larry Spizzirri  
Richard Spizzirri  
Don A. Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:57 PM by President Robert Hanley.
2. President Hanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Hanley introduced the guests.
4. President Hanley then introduced the speaker, Ted Savas. His topic was the “Mine Run Campaign and Battle of Payne’s Farm.” The Battle of Mine Run, also known as Payne’s Farm, or New Hope Church, or the Mine Run Campaign (November 27 – December 2, 1863), was conducted in Orange County, Virginia.
  - A. In late November, Meade attempted to march the Army of the Potomac through the Wilderness of Spotsylvania and strike the right flank of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia south of the Rapidan River. Meade knew that Lee’s army, half the size of his Army (48,000 to Meade’s 81,000), was split in two. Lee’s Army was separated by Clark’s Mountain, with the two flanks anchored at Mine Run and Liberty Mills, over thirty miles apart. Meade’s plan was to cross the Rapidan at points beyond Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry screen, overwhelm the right flank Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell’s Second Corps, and then follow up with the remainder (Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill’s Third Corps).
  - B. Meade planned a lightning strike with his entire Army. On November 25, the Army got off to a good start, aided by fog on Clark’s Mountain, which screened it’s movements from Confederate lookouts. However, Maj. Gen. William H. French’s III Corps got bogged down crossing the River at Jacob’s Ford, causing traffic jams when they moved their artillery to Germanna Ford, where other units were attempting to cross.
  - C. Meade was furious with French because this delay allowed Lee time to react. Lee ordered Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early (in temporary command of Ewell’s Second Corps) to march east on the Orange Turnpike to meet French’s advance near Payne’s Farm. Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Carr’s division of French’s corps attacked twice. Maj. Gen. Edward “Allegheny” Johnson’s division counter-attacked, but was scattered by heavy fire and broken terrain.
  - D. After dark, Lee withdrew to prepared field fortifications along Mine Run. The next day the Union Army closed on the Confederate position. Meade planned a heavy artillery bombardment followed by Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren’s II Corps attack in the south, then Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick’s VI Corps in the north an hour later. Lee planned an assault for December 2 that would have exploited the left flank of the Union line, discovered the previous day by Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton’s cavalry. Although the Union bombardment began on schedule, the attack was not made. Meade concluded that the Confederate line was too strong to attack (although Warren is credited with getting the attack canceled) and retired during the night of December 1–2. Lee was upset to find he had no one in his front to attack. This ended hostilities in the Eastern Theater for 1863.
5. President Hanley thanked Ted Savas for his excellent presentation and presented him with a bottle of wine.
6. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.
8. There was no Board Meeting. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

**George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Maxine Wollen**

**Treasurer’s Report**

The cash balance following the July 10, 2013 meeting was \$3,500.92. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$42.00. **George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

**John Brown's Spy: The Adventurous Life and Tragic Confession of John E. Cook.** By Steven Lubet. Notes, bibliography, index, 256 pp., 2012, Yale.

As John Brown was led to his hanging after the attack on Harpers Ferry, he stopped at their cells to give a silver quarter apiece to his co-conspirators John Anthony Copeland, Shields Green and Edwin Coppoc.

He did so not because they had any place to spend it — they themselves had been sentenced to hang two weeks later — but as a gesture of respect and affection.

Another culprit, John Edward Cook, received no quarter in any sense of the word. One witness said that John Brown had "nothing but sharp & scathing words" for Cook and accused him of "falsehood & cowardice."

Cook received a certain degree of posthumous quarter from John Brown's daughter Anne, who had served as a 16-year-old cook and housemaid for the 16 whites and five blacks who seized Harpers Ferry in 1859.

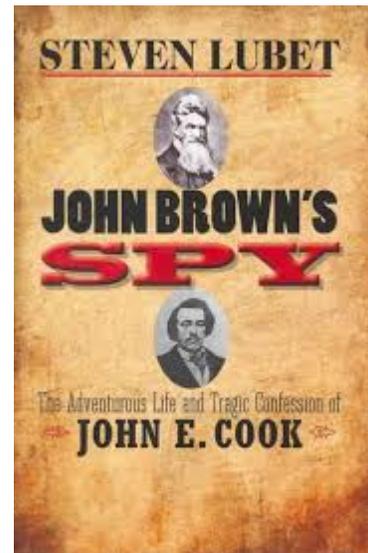
"I never blamed Cook," Anne wrote in 1886. "...People who never are known to offer themselves as martyrs to a cause, will clamor loudly for steadfast bravery in those who do suffer for a cause as a good principle."

Steven Lubet says in his introduction that John Brown's followers at Harpers Ferry were "literal spear carriers," mere opera singers who never got to sing a solo on stage. John Brown has been the subject of many biographies and a striking and ambiguous film portrayal by Raymond Massey.

Every other man who was shot, hanged or escaped at Harpers Ferry is known by name, but Lubet says that none of them has had a full biography and that they have seldom been portrayed at any length as independent moral actors.

Cook, the subject of Lubet's full biography, was definitely an independent actor. Described by some

hostile witnesses as "effeminate," the blond, stoop-shouldered Cook mustered enough virility to get two or three women pregnant, married one of them, and left his wife and baby son to his surviving relatives, who sometimes supported and sometimes rejected them.



Cook, hanged at the age of 30 but looking many years younger, defied specific classification as a either a hero or a villain — he was a very complicated character. Lubet does an extremely plausible and highly readable forensic reconstruction of a man who was a self-proclaimed hero and a bit of a scoundrel.

Cook was a superb marksman, loved to flash ornate guns, and told admirers he had killed five men. He had probably killed nobody.

As a spy for John Brown in Harpers Ferry, Cook provided information and urged Brown to carry out the seizure of the arsenal and instigate a massive slave uprising that never happened. Cook was a catalyst for the fiasco that cost Brown and two of his sons their lives and led to Cook's own hanging.

Cook lied a lot about his own life, mostly out of what sounds like poetic imagination coupled with chronic insecurity. But Lubet uses his lawyer's skills in sifting evidence to establish what probably did and did not happen. He also includes extensive notes at the end of the highly readable narrative to help the serious student of Cook's shady life to separate facts from conjecture.

Lubet describes the Harpers Ferry trials with a fine technical grasp of 19th-century law. For example, a defendant could not testify on his own behalf. Two black defendants were acquitted of treason because, as non-citizens under the *Dred Scott* decision, they could not be traitors.

Cook was also cleared of treason — but not cleared on charges of murder and insurrection. Under pressure from his defense attorneys, he prepared a "confession" naming some of the Harpers Ferry expedition's financial backers. None of the other defendants had done so. Cook also repudiated abolition.

Lubet's writing is excellent and his research is extremely impressive. While he raises some questions nobody can answer, the book achieves the author's stated goal: Despite some missing details and an ambivalent personality, John Edward Cook is now a memorable figure in the story of Harpers Ferry.

### John Koster

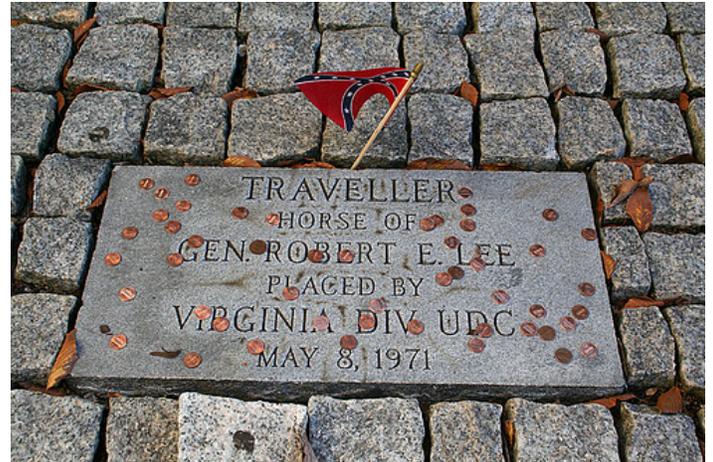
**John Koster's latest books are *Operation Snow: How a Soviet Mole in the White House Triggered Pearl Harbor and Custer Survivor*.**

(source:  
<http://www.civilwarnews.com/reviews/2013br/febmar/cook-lubet-bw021311.html>)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Traveler, Robert E. Lee's beloved horse, is buried outside the chapel of Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Originally named "Jeff Davis," he was a Tennessee Walking Horse purchased by Lee in 1861. Traveler and Lee were together throughout the war, both retiring to Lexington afterward. After Lee's death, Traveler became a local celebrity. Even today visitors to Traveler's grave remember him by leaving sugar cubes on his tombstone.



# CIVIL WAR

## *Living History Day*



## **Fort Point**

**at the Presidio, San Francisco**

**Saturday, 17 August 2013, 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](http://www.20thmaine.net)