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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
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President's Message

In a reflective mood, I am going to write about what I have learned from studying the Civil War. The first thing is this: Amateurs study battles and tactics. Historians study logistics. While logistics are not glamorous, this is what wins battles. Great generals know how to supply armies. Any list of the 10 greatest Union generals always includes General Montgomery Meigs, Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army.

At our last meeting, Bernie Quinn asked what makes a great general. I think tenacity is very important. In the book "Campaigning With Grant," the author, Horace Porter, says of Grant, "What he could not control, he could endure." On the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864, Grant sat by a fire all day smoking cigar after cigar. When some of his generals came to him asking what is Lee going to do next. In anger he said, "I'm tired of hearing that. You go back and make some plans and let Lee try and figure out we are going to do next!" Lee hit the Army of the Potomac harder in 1864 than he had in 1863 in the same area. After two days of fierce fighting, Grant pulls back and then heads South. Lee never went on the offense again. He, thereafter, reacted to what Grant does.

Finally, I say in any bureaucracy sooner or later, the English master rises to the top. In Grant's biography he wrote, "The fact is I think I am a verb instead of a personal pronoun. A verb is anything that signifies to be; to do; to suffer. I signify all three." He could sit down and write out orders so clear and unambiguous that everyone knew exactly what was expected of him.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, July 10, 2019
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – XX:

MEMBERS – XX:

GUESTS – XX:

1. The July 10, 2019, Minutes will be published at a later date.
2. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on July 10th was \$6,524.37.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2019 & 2020

Date	Speaker	Topic
August 14th	Dr. Tad Smith	"The Fuse to the War: The Dred Scott Decision"
September 11th	Richard Sickert	"A Prelude to America's Civil War"
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"
January 8th	Michael Werner	"The First Battle of Charleston Harbor, 1863"

2019 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2020. 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 1st 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

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.

Edwin McMasters Stanton

David Stanton was forced to abandon his Quaker faith when he fell in love with Lucy Norman, a Methodist and tutor at one of the local schools in Steubenville, Ohio where they both lived. The young couple married. Their first child, Edwin McMasters Stanton, was a sickly boy born on December 19, 1814. Their other surviving children were two daughters, Oella, Pamphilia and a son, Erasmus Darwin. David began to practice medicine from an office in their home. But when the Stantons lost three of their own children in three years, the town began to lose faith in the medical ability of the doctor. The Stantons had to struggle to pay their bills.



By the time Edwin was ten years old, he had fallen victim to asthma attacks so severe that they sometimes left him in convulsions. Unable to participate in physical activities, he became a voracious reader and dreamed of going to college but his father's sudden death of apoplexy, on December 30, 1827, left the family destitute. Lucy Stanton was forced to sell groceries from the front room of their home. Edwin quit school and got a job at the local book shop. Three years later, he was able to secure a loan to attend Kenyon College. But in three years, he was

financially drained. He was forced to return home and work at the bookstore again. Realizing he could never afford to return to college, Edwin began to apprentice at a law office.

In August 1833, cholera came to Steubenville. Ann Howard, a young woman at whose home Edwin was boarding, served him dinner at noon. By 4:00 PM, she was dead. Due to fear of contagion, her family buried her quickly. Stanton was convinced that Ann had been buried alive. In the dark of night, he and a friend dug up the coffin to ensure that Ann was dead. It was the first time Stanton went to war against Death.

Stanton had fallen in love with a young woman, Mary Lamson, but refused to marry until his studies were done. A year after being admitted to the bar, Edwin and Mary wed on December 31, 1836. They rented a home in Cadiz, Ohio where Stanton became active in the Anti-Slavery Society. Their first daughter, Lucy Lamson, was born to them on March 11, 1840. Edwin was doing so well he was able to assist his brother, Darwin, in paying for his training at Harvard Medical School. The new parents moved back to Steubenville and invited Edwin's mother and sister to live with them.

During the Summer of 1841, 15 month-old Lucy became seriously ill. The baby died on September 17, 1841. Stanton returned to work but was overwhelmed with depression. A year after Lucy's death, he had her remains disinterred and sealed in a metal box. He kept the box in his home for over a year. Some have suggested that the Steubenville cemetery where Lucy had been buried was overcrowded and being relocated. Others chalk up this move to grief, maybe even madness. Luckily, Mary gave birth to a son, Edwin Lamson Stanton, on August 11, 1842. The new baby cheered the household. But in February 1844, Mary Lamson fell ill with bilious fever. She died on March 13, 1844. Edwin refused to bury her. People whispered that he slept next to her dead body and had a seamstress alter and re-alter her wedding clothes, insisting that Mary must look exactly as she had on their wedding day. He wandered the halls of their home at night calling out, "*Where is Mary?*"

Stanton was not finished with death yet. On September 23, 1846, his brother, Darwin, delirious with fever, burst into the family home and, without warning, slit his own throat with one of his surgical lancets in front of his mother. The arterial blood covered the walls and ceiling making the room look like a charnel house. Edwin disappeared and it took hours for a search party to find him. He moved his brother's wife, Nancy, and her three children in with him, his mother, son, and sister.

Stanton went back to work. Four deaths in twelve years had changed him dramatically. Though a brilliant litigator, at times he was abusive and arbitrary. He was given to sudden rages. Though he was rude and rough spoken to clients, he remained in high demand as an attorney. His cases became more high profile. He handed the care of his son over to his mother and sister and focused only on work.

Twelve years after Mary's death, Edwin decided to take a chance at love again. In a letter to his future wife, 26 year-old Ellen Hutchinson, Stanton wrote, "*There is so much hard and repulsive in my...temper...*" But Ellen accepted his proposal and the two wed on June 25, 1856. Stanton had been admitted to the United States Supreme Court in 1850 and most of his cases were being heard there. They moved to Washington, DC, where Ellen eventually gave birth to 4 children.

In 1859, Stanton was one of the attorneys to get Dan Sickles, a New York politician, acquitted for killing his wife's lover in cold blood. It was headline news for weeks and was one of the earliest cases of a plea for temporary insanity. Stanton's reputation soared.

In 1860, near the end of his term, President James Buchanan appointed Stanton to the position of US Attorney General. Stanton secretly kept William Seward informed of behind the scenes White House policies. After Lincoln took office, Stanton worked as legal advisor to Simon Cameron, Secretary of War. William Seward lobbied until Lincoln rid himself of the corrupt Cameron and gave Stanton that appointment. It was not an easy decision. Lincoln and Stanton had never been friends. In 1857, both serving as attorneys on the Cyrus McCormick Reaper Infringement Case, Stanton had referred to Lincoln as "*a giraffe*" and a "*long armed baboon*" and refused to allow him to take any part in the trial. The brief Lincoln had worked on for weeks was handed back unread. Stanton did not speak to Lincoln nor even shake his hand. Lincoln told William Herndon that he had been "*roughly handled by that man Stanton.*" But Lincoln admitted after appointing Stanton as his Secretary of War, "*What troubles me most...is that Stanton said it, and Stanton is usually right.*"

Lincoln was able to rise above personal vendettas. In 1862, Lincoln lost his son, Willie, and Stanton, his 10 month-old baby, James. The common loss brought the two men closer. Some suggest their friendship was made easier because, unlike the rest of the Cabinet, Stanton did not have "*the maggot of the Presidency on his mind.*"

Stanton had given up \$45,000 a year in legal fees to work for an \$8,000 annual salary from the Government. He begged to be appointed to the well-paying and prestigious position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court when Roger Taney died. Lincoln refused. "*Stanton performs his task superhumanly.*" Lincoln needed his *Mars* at the War Department. After the Confederate surrender, Stanton again tried to resign due to ill health but Lincoln insisted he still needed him. And he did. It was Stanton who kept the country from falling apart after Lincoln's assassination.

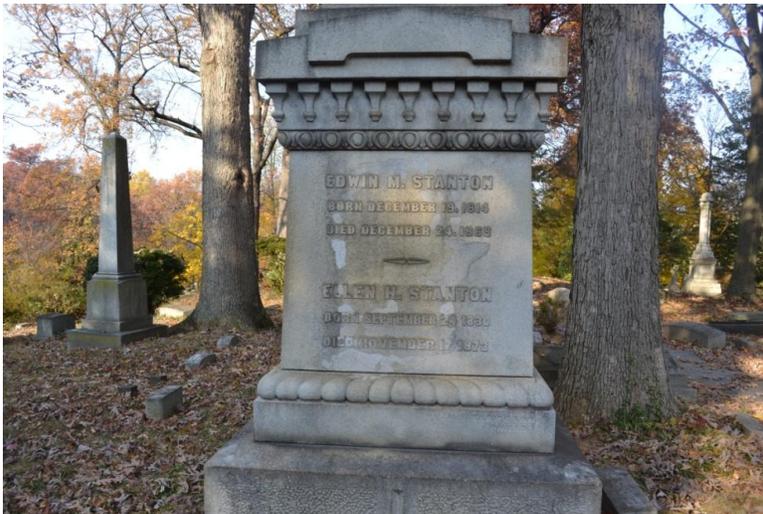
Stanton and the new President, Andrew Johnson, did not see eye to eye. Stanton vehemently opposed Johnson's lenient attitude toward the South and his turning a blind eye to the way the freed slaves were being victimized. When asked to resign by President Johnson, Stanton refused to leave his office and took to sleeping there. When Congress failed to impeach Johnson, Stanton was forced to resign.

His chronic asthma had left him unable to work. Stanton's doctors advised him to draw up his will. By September, 1869, he seemed near death. He spent the next few months asking friends for financial assistance. *"Five thousand would carry me through another year; even less would keep the wolf from the door."* In 1860, his personal assets had been

valued at \$267,000. But Stanton had supported most of his immediate family for years. He was now wholly dependent on the largesse of friends.

Stanton's dream of sitting on the Supreme Court seemed to be answered when the Senate approved his appointment to the Supreme Court on December 20, 1869. But by then, Stanton had fallen into a coma. He lingered until Christmas Eve, 1869, dying of respiratory failure just 4 days after his nomination. President Grant ordered all public offices closed on the day of his funeral and flags to be flown at half-staff.

Edwin McMasters Stanton is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, DC.



Son, Edwin L Stanton, loses an eye in a childhood accident.

2nd American after Benjamin Franklin (and besides Presidents) to be pictured on a postage stamp.

Sued for his sister's divorce and got her a \$50,000 settlement.

As Secretary of War, he was in charge of the Military Tribunal that judged the Lincoln conspirators. Stanton was the one who insisted on hoods and chains for the accused 24 hours a day. Mary Surratt was not included in this order.

Whispers of Stanton committing suicide because of guilt over Mary Surratt.

Dan Sickles murdered Philip Barton Key in cold blood. Key was the son of Francis Scott Key.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein



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 where information and registration forms will be available.

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

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):

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone _____

Email: _____