



# Battle Cry

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

Dennis Kohlman, our Program Director, has been busy securing new speakers for our club's upcoming meetings. Our speaker for the September meeting will be Rob Orr speaking on "Monitors." James Juanitas, a SCWRT member, will speak in October on "Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay." In November, Ann Peasley, our Vice President, will speak on "General James Longstreet." We do not have a speaker scheduled for December at this point in time. Confirmed for January's meeting is Richard Hurley, co-author of *Queen of the Northern Mines: A Novel of the Civil War in California*. Dennis has also spoken to Dr. Robert Chandler, who is a senior research historian for Wells Fargo, and author of a history of the financial services company, published in 2002 as part of the Images in America series. For more on Dr. Chandler, please see George Foxworth's report on a talk given by Dr. Chandler at the California State Library in August on page 5 of this issue. Dr. Chandler has expressed interest in speaking to us once or twice in 2013.

Please be sure to thank Dennis for all his efforts in securing speakers that help make our meetings a success.

**Bob Hanley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, August 8, 2012**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 34**

**MEMBERS**

Steve Andrews	Nina Henley (MAL)
James Armstrong	Wayne Henley (MAL)
Roy Bishop	James Juanitas
Harvey Cain	Dennis Kohlman
Marsha Cain	Grace Long
Ardith Cnota	Vivian Miller
Mitch Cnota	Anne Peasley (VP)
George Foxworth (TREAS)	Rick Peasley
Alan Geiken	Paul Ruud
John Greer	Nancy Samuelson
Bob Hanley	Nicholas Scivoletto
Don Hayden	Richard Sickert
	Silver Williams
	Maxine Wollen (SEC)

**GUESTS**

Becky Highsmith  
Chris Highsmith  
Robert Linggi  
Sean Keister  
Ali Doyle  
Michael Luking  
Valerie Luking  
Dillon Gedeon

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 by Pres. Bob Hanley
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Hanley
3. Pres. Hanley introduced the guests
4. Pres. Hanley introduced the speaker, SCWRT member, Silver Williams
5. After she finished, Pres. Bob Hanley thanked her and presented her with a bottle of wine
6. Other business consisted of an update of the Conference, to be held in Nov.
7. Nick Scivoletto headed up the raffle
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15

The presentation of the evening was about 3 women who were spies for the Union. The first was a very pretty, coquettish young woman who could easily charm men out of information. The second woman was a person who went into the Army as a man, and was used to men's clothing, shoes, mannerisms, etc. In her times of spying, she adopted a different disguise each time. The last was a widow, who tipped off Union soldiers as to the whereabouts of John Hunt Morgan. The information led the Union soldiers to locating him, and killing him.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The meeting was held immediately after the above meeting. Dennis advised that Rob Orr was to be the speaker in Sept. A play is to be presented in Dec, based on letters from a soldier to his wife at home, and hers to him. Bob recommended reading "Queen of the Northern Mines", a historically accurate book. There was a discussion of Gibson Ranch and Doug Ose. Don suggested that the Board meet for breakfast twice a year.

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance at the end of the meeting was \$2,843.86. Thanks to Nick Scivoletto, members and guests, the raffle brought in \$68.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

## BOOK REVIEW

Glenna Matthews, *The Golden State in the Civil War: Thomas Starr King, the Republican Party, and the Birth of Modern California*

Cambridge University Press, NY. 2012

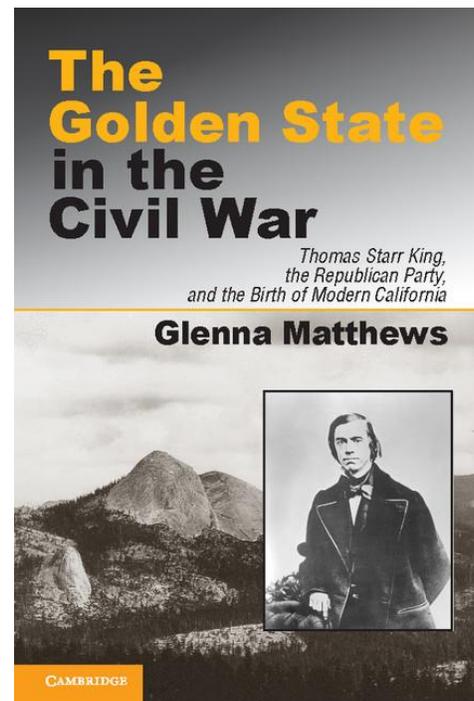
Review by Joshua Paddison

In 1913, California's state legislators voted to install statue in National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol representing an "honored" person from its past. Each state had the right to install two statues in the "marble senate," and for its first the state legislature made what today seems a surprising choice: Unitarian minister Thomas Starr King. State senator Herbert C. Jones explained that King "did more than any other man to keep California in the union when the civil war broke out."

Glenna Matthews's new book *The Golden State in the Civil War*, the best and broadest biography of King so far published, helps us understand why the minister loomed so large in the public memory of California. Matthews shows that, while it was probably impossible that the state would have joined the Confederacy, King's religious, political, and environmental writings and speeches indelibly shaped the cultural climate of nineteenth-century California.

Born in 1824, King spent his formative years in Boston. When King was fourteen his father, a

Universalist minister, died, forcing him to quit school to support his family. However, his voracious intellect and spiritual longings eventually led him to become a Unitarian clergyman, and he found mentorship from a who's-who of New England thinkers, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison, Theodore Parker, Horace Greeley, and Frederic Henry Hedge. An ardent abolitionist (though "not consistently antiracist," in Matthews's words), King soon gained a reputation as a stirring speaker on the New England lyceum circuit (p. 234).



Offered posts at Unitarian churches in both Cincinnati and San Francisco in 1859, King opted for San Francisco, undaunted by the fact that it was the only Unitarian congregation west of Missouri. In California at the outbreak of the war, King lectured so often and forcefully on behalf of the Union that he became what Matthews calls a "larger-than-life

figure" in the state (p. 92). Attested one onlooker in 1861, "He is a most brilliant orator, his language strong and beautiful. He is almost worshipped here" (p. 92). King moved between different pockets of California's diverse society, preaching in a variety of Protestant churches and for audiences both black and white.

Matthews makes it clear that it was not only King's oratorical skills but his personal connections to other celebrities (not just Boston intellectuals but local literati like Jessie Benton Fremont and Bret Harte) that propelled his fame. Matthews argues that King served as a "cultural broker" between the west and the northeast, promoting the beauty and importance of California to New England readers while introducing Transcendentalism and Boston-style literary salons to San Francisco (p. 132).

King's brand of Unitarian theology--what he called "spiritual Christianity"--emphasized the potential of the natural world to inspire awe, humility, and communion with God. For the *Boston Evening Transcript*, he wrote a series of appreciations of California's varied landscapes, praising especially the "sweetness and beauty amid the threatening awfulness" he found in Yosemite Valley (p. 139). These writings would influence later generations of Yosemite chroniclers, especially John Muir.

Matthews situates King's experiences within the larger saga of California during the Civil War, devoting chapters to the growth of the Republican Party, various military engagements, and how

California gold helped support the Union, among other topics. However, the chapters that focus directly on King are, to me, the freshest and most compelling. It's unclear why Matthews elected to drop him from her narrative as often and for as long as she does.

King died from a combination of exhaustion, pneumonia, and diphtheria in 1864, and his death sent California into mass mourning. "Some 20,000 people thronged the church and its vicinity as King lay in state," notes Matthews (p. 232). It was perhaps California's first celebrity funeral, and his early demise (he was 39) must have helped spread his legend.

Interestingly, the California legislature ended up putting another spiritual leader in the National Statuary Hall alongside Thomas Starr King: Franciscan missionary Junípero Serra. However, in 2009 the state legislature replaced King's statue with that of former governor and president Ronald Reagan. Donald Ritchie, historian of the U.S. Senate, remarked at the time, "I've rarely met a Californian who knew who [King] was." Reagan and King were both Republicans, though I don't know how much else they shared.

*Religion in the America West* blog, posted September 3rd ([http://relwest.blogspot.com/2012/09/book-of-month.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReligionInTheAmericanWest+%28Religion+in+the+American+West%29](http://relwest.blogspot.com/2012/09/book-of-month.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReligionInTheAmericanWest+%28Religion+in+the+American+West%29))



## California During the Civil War Years

By George W. Foxworth

The California State Library presented Dr. Robert J. Chandler on Wednesday, August 15, 2012. Dr. Chandler's topic was "California During the Civil War Years." Dr. Chandler is a recognized authority on the American West and graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a PhD on "The Press and Civil Liberties in California during the Civil War." He broadened his interest in California history to finance, mining, coin or metal collecting, stamp collecting, commerce, and transportation. Dr. Chandler was a public historian for Wells Fargo for over thirty years before retiring. He has written over 50 articles and several books, including *California, an Illustrated History and Wells Fargo (Images of America)*. Dr. Chandler is a former member of the San Francisco Civil War Round Table.

In late April 1861 ten days after the Civil War began, the Pony Express brought the news to California. Although far from Eastern battlefields, California played a significant role in support of the Union. Its wealth from the gold fields bolstered credit; its thousands of troops guarded the Overland Mail routes; and its generous citizens, rallied by Thomas Starr King who gave a million dollars to aid sick and wounded soldiers. Dr. Chandler also discussed the California troops who observed the Latter Day Saints in Utah. More significantly, the War brought a political revolution to California. It inaugurated black

legal rights and squelched the Secessionists. Dr. Chandler discussed many individuals in California such as John C. Fremont, Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, Charles Crocker, General George Wright, General James Henry Carleton, John Burch, Edmund Randolph, James McClatchy, Alexander P. Crittenden, Asbury Harpending, General James Shields, and others. He gave special recognition to the CAL 100.

An exhibit of Civil War related historic and archival material drawn from the State Library's collection was on display during the lecture. Those materials will remain on display during the month of August 2012 in the State Library rotunda. Refreshments were sponsored by the California State Library Foundation. Actually, the refreshments were excellent and took the place of my supper.

The meeting area was packed with over 200 people, standing room only and sitting on stairwells for many of the attendees. In addition, the loud speaker did not work but Dr. Chandler gave a superb presentation in spite of the shortcomings. A lively questions/answers period followed the lecture. From the Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Eric Henderson and George W. Foxworth attended.



## **Upcoming Events**

The Walnut Creek Library Foundation is hosting a number of events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

### **September 11, 2012**

**Who:** New York Times bestselling author and master storyteller of historical and military fiction Jeff Shaara, whose work includes Civil War novels *Gods and Generals*, *The Last Full Measure* and the recently released *A Blaze of Glory*.

**When:** 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Where:** Leshar Center for the Arts  
1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA

**Cost:** Tickets \$35, or \$75 for VIP seating and pre-reception with the author.

Purchase tickets online, call (925) 943-SHOW or visit the Leshar Center box office or ticket outlet in the Walnut Creek Library.

For more information, please go to

<http://www.wclibrary.org/live/lincoln/>

*“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War”* runs from December 14, 2012, through February 8, 2013, at the Walnut Creek Library. Exhibited in the Teen Center on the second floor, “Lincoln” will be open to visitors during library hours. Six special companion events will be held during the exhibit’s run.

### **Friday, December 14, 2012**

***Lincoln at the Library ~ Open House***

**6:30-8:30 p.m. Walnut Creek Library**

### **Monday, January 7, 2013**

***Kevin Starr – California & the Civil War: From Frontier to Province***

**Leshar Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.**

American historian Kevin Starr will discuss the emergence of national leadership in California and by California during the Civil War with an analysis of California’s transition from *frontier to province*.

### **Tuesday, January 15, 2013**

***The True Story of Glory Continues: Documentary Screening***

**7:00 p.m. Oak View Room, Walnut Creek Library**

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, this 45-minute documentary tells the true story of the patriots of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first black fighting unit of the American Civil War. A panel discussion follows the screening.

### **Thursday, January 17, 2013**

***Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln with Arnold Kunst, Lincoln Historian***

**Thursday, January 17, 2013**

**6:30 p.m. Walnut Creek Library Oak View Room**

Master storyteller Arnold Kunst offers a program designed for all audiences interested in a good laugh, with a dose of inspiration.

### **Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

***The Songs & Poetry of the Civil War***

**7:00 p.m. Walnut Creek Library Oak View Room**

This program features well-known Civil War anthems; letters from soldiers writing home to their families; and the poetry of some of the most prolific and profound Civil War-era writers.

### **Tuesday, January 29, 2013**

***Vikram Amar – A Nation Divided***

**7:00 p.m. Walnut Creek Library Oak View Room**

Vikram Amar, UC Davis, Constitutional Law Professor, will discuss Abraham Lincoln’s views on partisanship, states’ rights, and the institutional role of the Supreme Court, and explore what lessons Lincoln’s approach to these questions during the Civil War era might have for the modern era.

**For more information, please go to**

**<http://www.wclibrary.org/live/lincoln/>**

