



**Volume 56, No 9
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Battle Cry

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

It's good to return to home base after a very joyous visit home in the Midwest and to enjoy another talk with our Round Table. Many kudos to Bob Bundy for a lively presentation on a subject seldom discussed but interesting about our heroes who proved that they were human after all.

Ironically, back in a suburb of Milwaukee, a childhood friend's wife informed me she is the long-term secretary for the Brookfield, Wisconsin CWRT. Unfortunately, their numbers are not as great as ours and I was sad to hear that none of them attend the Milwaukee meetings. I receive Milwaukee's newsletters monthly and they are a huge group of hundreds of members who enjoy many great talks. We are fortunate to have the well-informed speakers we obtain without the tremendous expense. For that, we should all be grateful as am I and our hard working Board.

On that issue, we will next enjoy the Karlsburgs' who have presented a wide variety of subjects in an impressive display of skillful theatrical art including impressive costumes (at times) and high quality audio-visual programming. This will bear attending at the risk of missing a good show. I look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget to consider attending the annual meeting [2016 West Coast Civil War Conference] in late October. It is frequently the highlight of our year.

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, August 10, 2016
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 32

MEMBERS – 25: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Arnold Kunst, Grace Long, Bernie Quinn, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Raymond Valdez, Susan Williams, John Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Cassidy Black, Esther Boeck, Bob Bundy, Cash Bundy, Dennis Kohlmann, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso supervised the raffle.
2. Bob Bundy, a long-time member of the Elk Grove CWRT, presented his talk on Civil War feuds.
3. The first feud featured Daniel Sickles and Phillip Barton Key. Sickles was an extravagant personality. He advanced from Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg without orders. He was quite taken with a very expensive companion named Fanny White. While involved with Fanny, he married 16 year-old Teresa Bagioli. She began an affair with Phillip Key and admitted it to Sickles. Sickles shot and killed Key. At his trial, he pleaded temporary insanity, the first defendant to do so. Sickles and Teresa reconciled and remained together.
4. General Jefferson C. Davis (no relation to the President of the Confederate States of America) quarreled with General William Nelson, second in command to General Buell. Nelson was known to be very argumentative. Davis challenged Nelson who slapped and knocked down Davis. Davis was given a gun daring Nelson to take another step; he did. Davis killed him and was arrested. Buell had just been relieved of command and Davis got away with murder.
5. In Spring Hill, Tennessee, CSA General Earl Van Dorn, began an affair with the wife of Dr. Peters who discovered Van Dorn in bed with her. The next day, Peters went to Van Dorn's headquarters, shot and killed him. Peters went behind Union lines, took the oath of allegiance but later returned. He stayed with his wife until his death.
6. United States' General Winfield Hancock was very close friends with General John Gibbon. Together, they repulsed Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. However, Hancock's II Corps was routed at Ream's Station (Petersburg Battlefield) by A.P. Hill. This had never happened before. Hancock blamed Gibbon who tendered his resignation which Hancock burned. They were never reconciled.
7. In 1865 although Lee had surrendered, the War did not end because the largest Confederate army was still in North Carolina under General Joe Johnston. General William T. Sherman wrote terms but Grant indicated the military could only accept unconditional surrender. Somehow Edwin Stanton got the document and was reviling Sherman who knew nothing of it. Sherman finally learned of Stanton's actions as he was preparing for the Grand Review. Sherman rode at the head of the Army, dismounted, and climbed the reviewing stand to shake hands with President Johnson, General Grant, and others. Coming to Stanton, he did not shake his hand.
8. Grover Cleveland was the first President who did not serve in the War. Many thought he shirked his responsibility. When he agreed to the suggestion that all Confederate flags be returned to their original states, there was opposition by the Grand Army of the Republic and Governor Joseph B. Foraker of Ohio. Rather than confront the GAR, Cleveland withdrew the order and instead of attending the GAR Convention, he went fishing.
9. Stonewall Jackson was a sour personality and a poor communicator. A.P. Hill was affable and flamboyant. Hill's first assignment with Jackson was to follow Ewell's Division but Jackson made a change without notifying anyone, thus only one mile was made. Jackson blamed Hill. On the march to Cedar Mountain, Hill's troops saved Jackson from being routed. Next, Jackson issued several orders that pushed Hill to offer his sword but Jackson ordered him to the rear, under arrest. Hill fought at Antietam saving Lee from disaster.
10. On the first night of Chancellorsville as Jackson was returning from reconnoitering the Union front line, he was shot by Hill's men. His arm was amputated and he died 10 days later. His last words were "Tell A.P. Hill to come up." Incidentally, Lee also called to Hill as he was dying.
11. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 10 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant, Madison Avenue.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the August 10th meeting was \$5,375.20. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$51.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2016 & 2017

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 14th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Do You Know More Than a 5 th Grader About the Civil War?"
October 12th	Sherri Patton	"Civil War Diplomacy"
November 9th	Carolyn Martin	"Women in the Civil War"
December 14th	Silver N. Williams	"The Rebel and the Rose—and The Lost Confederate Gold"
January 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
February 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

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

Do not submit scanned files since I may need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

A Finger in Lincoln's Brain: What Modern Science Reveals About Lincoln, His Assassination, and Its Aftermath

*Author: E. Lawrence Abel; Review by: Jay Jorgensen
Bibliography, index, photos, 269 pp., 2015, ABCCLIO, \$48*

The first three sentences of E. Lawrence Abel's Preface raise the issue many potential readers will pose when they pick up "*A Finger in Lincoln's Brain*." Another book about the Lincoln assassination? Surely everything that could be said about the death of America's 16th President has already been written. So what is different about this book?" Abel, a faculty professor of psychology and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Wayne State University, presents a compelling case for why you should read his book.

The author takes a systematic look at the Lincoln assassination and its aftermath. Relying upon a newly discovered document, he opines that the initial treatment of the President right after he was shot probably did not occur in the manner commonly believed. By examining the extant records a different analysis is presented as to the ultimate cause of death. The fact that three different physicians inserted their fingers into Lincoln's head through the bullet hole (providing the title for the book) certainly did not help Lincoln's survival chances.

The book also covers the actions and demise of John Wilkes Booth. Was Booth suffering from syphilis, which contributed to his delusional state leading to the assassination? The author examines that likelihood by reviewing the cumulative evidence. In doing so, Abel provides an interesting perspective into the motives behind Booth's fateful decision.

There is a chapter devoted to the embalming of Abraham Lincoln in preparation for his train journey home to Illinois. Rarely considered in Lincoln's assassination accounts, this proves to be an interesting topic that contributes to the aftermath of Lincoln's death. The author also provides readers with the impact the embalming had upon the body and the subsequent viewings along the train stops.

"A Finger in Lincoln's Brain" is a very readable book. It provides an interesting viewpoint of the Lincoln assassination story that is not often told.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein.

Corporal Nehemiah N. Denton

Nehemiah N. Denton, a Union veteran of the Civil War, moved to Sacramento in the years after the War. He helped build our great city and is buried here.



Nehemiah N. Denton was a native of Canandaigua, New York, graduate of Rochester University, and served as a corporal in Company F, First New York Volunteer Engineers. He was born in February 1842, enlisted as a Private at age 20 on November 11, 1861, and mustered into Company F, First New York Volunteer Engineers on November 19, 1861. He was promoted to Corporal on January 15, 1862. Denton's unit was one of only a handful of engineers regiments in the Union Army during the Civil War. They specialized in constructing fortifications and defensive works, destroying roads and bridges, building floating pontoon bridges, etc. Denton saw action at the capture of many Southern sites including Morris Island, South Carolina; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; Jacksonville, Florida; and Bermuda Hundred, Virginia. In 1864, Denton served six months as chief clerk for the chief engineer of the Union's Department of Virginia and North Carolina. He mustered out on November 18, 1864 at New Market Road, Virginia.

At the close of the War he moved to Sacramento where he was married and resided for fifty years. He took an active part in church and YMCA work, and was also identified with the Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member.

Denton died on May 7, 1918 in Port Orchard, Washington at the age of 73. Services were conducted in Seattle, WA and his body was returned to Sacramento for internment at Sacramento City Cemetery.

Submitted by - Sebastian Nelson (sebnelson@gmail.com)

The Bright Side

Winslow Homer

Thomas B. Cole, MD, MPH

The initial sketch for ***The Bright Side***, a painting by the American artist Winslow Homer (1836-1910), was made while Homer was attached to the Union Army as an artist-correspondent during the United States' Civil War. In this image, four weary teamsters doze in the morning sun and a fifth looks around to see who might be disturbing his rest. It is likely that these men have been up all night driving teams of mules pulling wagons loaded with provisions and equipment. Many Union Army teamsters were free Blacks from Northern states or former slaves from the South who had escaped through Union lines to join the War effort. Those who qualified to drive the mule teams were expected to work long hours in all weathers. The wagons would kick up dust in drought conditions and bog down in the rain. The teamsters slept whenever they could, because at a moment's notice, they might be called on to pack up the army's gear and move out again. The background of this painting, tilted upward to push the teamsters toward the picture plane, is dense with covered wagons and grazing mules. The men in the foreground huddle for warmth against their patched and muddy tent, their hat brims pulled down low to shade their eyes. One teamster, not yet asleep, runs his fingers through the strands of his mule whip. The man looking out of the tent appears to be seeking eye contact, as if the viewer is part of the scene.



Winslow Homer (1836 - 1910), *The Bright Side*, 1865. American Oil on Canvas. 32.4 x43.2cm. **Courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.** (<https://www.famsf.org/>) San Francisco, California. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III, 1979.7.56.

Homer was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1836. His mother was an amateur watercolorist and the painter's first teacher. His father was an adventurer who went west for the California gold rush when Homer was still a boy. After high school, Homer worked for a Boston lithographer and contributed illustrations of contemporary life to popular magazines such as *Harper's Weekly*, the most widely read journal of the time. His early engravings are characterized by clean outlines, strong contrasts, and animated figures. In 1859, Homer enrolled at the National Academy of Design in New York and studied with Frédéric Rondel, who taught him the basics of painting in oils. In 1861, he was commissioned by *Harper's* to follow the Union Army campaign across the State of Virginia and make sketches of military life. Many of these sketches became illustrations for *Harper's*, but toward the end of the War, Homer reserved some drawings for paintings such as ***The Bright Side***. Other War-related paintings by Homer include ***Sharpshooter on Picket Duty*** (1862) and ***Prisoners From the Front*** (1866). From 1863 to 1866, Homer exhibited several art works, including ***The Bright Side***, at the National Academy of Design. His favored subjects were scenes of day-to-day army life, which accounted for most of the time that soldiers were in the field.

Supplying the soldiers with food, water, clothing, shelters, weapons, and ammunition was a never-ending task. Provisions had to be transported overland to keep up with the combat troops, who were often on the move. Each time the army shifted its position with respect to the enemy or to defend the nation's capital, the teamsters would have to pack the wagons, harness the mules, and drive to the next encampment. The strenuousness of this physical labor was compounded by the intractability of the overworked mules. Army mules were strong and hardy and would eat whatever fodder they were given, but they were notoriously antagonistic. They would kick and bite their handlers or stand still and refuse the pull until they were cursed and whipped into motion. By reputation, the army teamsters were the most foul-mouthed men in the army, as well as known for their profanity as the mules were known for their stubbornness. This is the basis for the visual joke of the angry teamster in ***The Bright Side*** – the prudent observer would pipe down and back away.

The deeper meaning of ***The Bright Side*** is that army teamsters could look forward to a better future. Those who were former slaves were supporting the fight to preserve their freedom. If the Union won the War, they would have the opportunity to locate, reunite, and provide for their families. Black teamsters who were free before they enlisted hoped to get good jobs after the War. Neither group was assured of success – if a Black teamster's unit lost a battle and he was captured by Confederate troops, he could be executed or enslaved. However, in 1865, when ***The Bright Side*** was painted, the Confederacy was near defeat and the chances of capture were slim.

When the War was over, the teamsters would still have to compete for jobs. Blacks seeking employment in the cities could expect to be confronted by White workers feeling threatened by the influx of new labor. Clashes between Black and White workers could be violent – in 1863, White workers in New York attacked Black longshoremen and drove them out of the City. After five days of rioting, order was restored, but resentment still lingered. Army teamsters seeking agricultural work after the War would also face major challenges. They would have to raise capital to buy a few acres of arable land or become sharecroppers and lease their fields, borrow seed, tools, and provisions, and sell their crops to a landowner who controlled prices and terms of indebtedness. Political freedom would not mean the end of hard times. Black men would gain the right to vote, but as the Century wore on, they would find it increasingly difficult to exercise that right. Since 1865 when Homer painted ***The Bright Side***, generations of Americans have viewed this image and felt empathy for the black teamsters and the dark days to come, but the hardworking men in this scene are obviously too tired to worry about all that now. After laboring all night to bring supplies into camp, they have found a sunny spot where they can bask in the satisfaction of a job well done.

Journal of American Medical Association, June 28, 2016

Submitted by Marsha Jutovsky and Harvey D. Cain

WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

October 28-30, 2016, Costa Mesa, CA ★ Jointly Hosted by the Orange County and Pasadena Civil War Round Tables

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Eric Wittenberg, Author/Historian

Custer – What If...?

Little Phil: A Reassessment of the Leadership of General Phil Sheridan

James Hessler, Author/Historian

How Dan Sickles Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg

Paul Gillette, Author/Historian

Orange County CWRT

A Never-Ending War: The James-Younger Gang, 1866-1882

Meg Groeling, Author/Historian/Educator

These Honored Dead

Evan Jones, Author/Historian

The Road Home

Michael Oddenino – Historian/Attorney

Pasadena CWRT

Robert E. Lee After the War

Ted Savas, Author/Historian

Owner, Savas-Beatie Publishing

Rediscovering Hallowed Ground

Nick Smith, Historian

Sons of Union Veterans/Pasadena CWRT

Westward Bound: Veterans and Their Lives in California

James Stanbery, Historian

Professor, Los Angeles Harbor College

Orange County & Pasadena CWRTs

Left-Wing Confederates, In and Beyond the War

Joan Waugh, Author/Historian

Professor of History, UCLA

The Civil War in History and Memory

Cheryl Wilkinson, Author/Historian

Sawtelle: New Battles for Union Veterans

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Crowne Plaza Costa Mesa

3131 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA

Group Rate of \$129/night includes free breakfast for two per room; free wi-fi and parking; free shuttle from John Wayne Airport. Group rate available pre/post event.

For details on the hotel and nearby activities/attractions, check their web site:

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/costa-mesa/laxcm/hoteldetail>

Group Reservations

(prior to Oct. 7, 2016): (866) 437-5657

Group Name:

Civil War Round Table (Code CWR)

Conference Registration

Early Bird Rate: \$215

(January 1 to July 31, 2016)

Regular Rate: \$225

(starting August 1, 2016)

Refunds

Refunds prior to Sept. 1, 2016 will be less a \$25 processing fee; no refunds will be made after September 1, 2016.

Questions?

Contact the Co-Chairs

Joann Knowles, *Orange County CWRT*

joannsbk@aol.com

Janet Whaley, *Pasadena CWRT*

janet1860@charter.net

REGISTRATION FORM

Make your check payable to Pasadena CWRT and mail to Janet Whaley, 1143 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104-3558

Credit Card payments accepted via PayPal: <http://www.pasadenacwrt.org/westcoastconference2016>

NAME _____ AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS/CITY/ZIP _____

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