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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

My latest readings reminded me of a book by William Manchester, "A World Lit by Fire." It was about daily life in the Middle Ages. I think his idea was still true in the 1860s. There was no electricity. The only ways to preserve foods were smoking and drying. The infant mortality rate was about 30%. Poor people wore used clothes, usually from Europe. Rich people had clothes handmade. Starvation was an ever present danger. A small farm, North or South, was always in danger of running out of food. If a family didn't have grown children and the man of the farm went to war, the farm could collapse.

Few people owned horses. They were expensive to buy and to maintain. A town might have a half dozen carriages. Doctors were rare and poorly trained. Medicines were scarce and often ineffective. Most babies were delivered by midwives who got on-the-job training from other midwives.

Most battlefield injuries were fatal. Infections were looked on as healthy. There was no knowledge of basic hygiene. Most people had never traveled more than 20 miles from where they were born. When brought together in large groups, they would be exposed to diseases they had no resistance to.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 32

MEMBERS – 25: Dennis Kohlmann, President; Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Larry & Silver Marvin (Program Director); Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Arnd Garnter, Ron Grove, Chris Highsmith, Lloyd Limprecht, Alejandro & Jaime Lizarraga, Grace Long, Joseph & Michelle Matalone, Paul Ruud (MAL); Roxanne Spizzirri, Raymond Valdez, Michael Werner, Dan & Faye Wolfe, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Esther Boeck, Joe Maxwell, Robert Orr, Steve Schiflett, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Miles Young.

1. Dennis Kohlmann led the Pledge and John Zasso conducted the raffle. Silver Marvin introduced Joe Maxwell who talked about Union Cavalry. He was joined by Miles Young.
2. In 1860, the U.S. Army's 16,000 troops were mostly West of the Mississippi fighting Indians. It was so poor, Sherman was given a sergeant's pay upon graduating West Point. J.E.B. Stuart was also a graduate.
3. There were no manuals but J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry performed the functions of the European Cavalry: Reconnaissance, screening, covering flanks, shot charges, picketing, and long-distance raids.
4. West Point was an engineering school with emphasis on building bridges and forts, surveying, and mathematics. With the likelihood of War, the graduating class of 1861 was followed one month later by a second class that included Custer.
5. One million horses and mules were killed during the War. Before the War, a horse cost \$150. The North had 3.4 million horses, the South 1.7 million. At Gettysburg, the Union used 9,000 horses and 21,000 mules. The Union Cavalry Artillery of 6 guns required 200 horses each needing 10 pounds of hay and 14 pounds of grain daily. At the beginning of the War, Southern horses were superior because they were bred to race and maintain a smooth gait. J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry is acknowledged to hold the record of riding 80 miles in 27 hours.
6. A Union enlisted man was given a horse; an officer paid \$119 initially, and then \$190 by the end of the War. The Southern Cavalryman brought his own horse and if one was killed the man had 60 days to replace it. If he could not, he became an infantryman. By the end of the War, a horse cost \$3,000 in the South.
7. Joe found Riding with Custer written by James Kidd in 1908 and discovered in 1997. It provided detail as to what was needed to be a successful officer. To look manly, facial hair was a must. Because Kidd raised 76 men in two weeks he became a Captain in the Michigan Cavalry.
8. Both sides used a 6-shot black powder pistol. The Union used the Colt Dragon 44 caliber revolver. Wealthier men carried more guns at their own expense. After 36 shots, the pistols had to be boiled to be made usable again. The Henry rifle fired 15 repeating shots. The Spencer rifle fired 7 large repeating bullets. Swords were issued. Once a battle was engaged, the men dismounted, one took the horses and gear of the other three to the rear reducing the fighting force and ammunition by 25%. We sampledhardtack made by Joe. A day's ration was 8 large pieces.
9. After Gettysburg, Custer and Kilpatrick pursued Lee's troops and wagons to prevent them from crossing the Potomac. The 5th and 6th Michigan fought at the Midnight Fight of Monterey Pass but were not successful. By the time the encounter ended, they had been riding for more than 7 days.
10. In the Questions and Answers, it was apparent the horses and mules were always starving, only to be human rations.
11. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the November 14th meeting was \$6,474.21. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$63.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2018 & 2019		
Date	Speaker	Topic
December 12th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Civil War Quiz"
January 9th	Ted Savas	"The War Outside my Window"
February 13th	Jim Lane	"The Great Locomotive Chase"
March 13th	Bernie Quinn	"Engagements of Hiram Berdan's Sharpshooters"
April 10th	Nick K. Adams	"Two Sides of One Story as Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey"
May 8th	Chris Highsmith	"The Adventures of the Illinois 34th"
June 12th	Nancy Samuelson	"Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford, Ranger"

2019 Membership

The 2019 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2019. 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

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

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 Report On The 34th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference by George W. Foxworth

The 34th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held on November 9 - 11, 2018, at the Wyndom Garden Fresno Airport Hotel in Fresno, California.

The Conference was hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (CWRT) and Inland Empire CWRT. **“The Trans-Mississippi Theater: The Not So Glamorous Step-Sister of the Civil War of Civil War Historians”** was the theme and many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were General Parker Hills, Richard Hatcher III, James Stanbery, Michael Green, Dr. Brian Clague, and Ron Vaughan. Thomas W. Cutrer was a scheduled speaker but due to weather problems/flight cancellations, he was not able to attend. Also in attendance were Ted Savas, Steve Madden, and other Civil War enthusiasts throughout the West.

The Sacramento CWRT was represented by Mark Carlson, George W. Foxworth, Don Hayden, Dennis & Garda Kohlmann, Barbara Leone, Kim Grace Long, Paul Ruud, Richard Sickert, and Michael Werner (a total of 10).

All presentations were excellent. General Parker Hills spoke on "Red River Campaign," "Grant's March to Vicksburg: West of the Mississippi," "Steel's Campaign," and "Battlefield Archeology." Richard Hatcher III spoke on "Battle of Wilson's Creek" and "Battle of Pea Ridge." Jim Stanbery spoke on "Secession Crisis in the Trans-Mississippi" and "Native Americans in the Civil War." Brian Clague presented "Medical Care in the Trans-Mississippi." Ron Vaughan spoke on "Introduction to the Trans-Mississippi Theater," "California in the Civil War," "Battle of Prairie Grove," and "The Other War: France's Venture in Mexico." Michael Green presented "San Joaquin Valley CWRT Donations to Raymond Battlefield."

The Conference was a complete success and the San Joaquin Valley CWRT is commended for their excellent work. Special recognition goes to Michael Green, Ron and Linda Vaughan, Dr. Brian and Linda Clague, Patricia Spencer, Michael Spencer, Wyndom Garden Hotel, and others from the San Joaquin Valley CWRT. Also, General Parker Hills, James Stanbery and Doug van der Weyde supplied us with outstanding fireworks on their PowerPoint presentations. All were pleased. Finally, Dr. Brian Clague presented the 2018 "Jerry Russell Award" to Ron Vaughan and Michael Green.

Looking ahead to 2019, the 35th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference will be hosted by the Sacramento CWRT. The topic is unknown at this time and will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento, CA. The dates are November 8 – 10, 2019.

Dan Rice

Today, his memory has faded into obscurity but in the Nineteenth Century, there was barely a person in the United States and throughout most of Europe, who did not know his name. Funny, quick-witted, well-spoken, and versed not only in Shakespeare but a student of current events, Dan Rice was probably the highest paid man in America and the most famous clown in the world in the ante-bellum and post-bellum eras. It is said Rice was the model for Thomas Nast's Uncle Sam because of the stovepipe hat and red, white, and blue striped suit he wore during his shows. Mark Twain had seen Rice perform in Hannibal, Missouri and said the clown in Huck Finn was modeled after him.



Rice was born Daniel McClaren on January 23, 1823 on Mulberry Street in the Five Points Section of New York. His father was a law student studying under Aaron Burr. His mother, Elizabeth Crum, was the daughter of a Methodist minister from Ocean Grove, New Jersey. The young couple met at a dance in Long Branch and eloped to New York City. When Elizabeth's father discovered her whereabouts, he collected her and the new baby, dragged them back to New Jersey, and had the marriage annulled.

After two years of living under her father's thumb, Elizabeth went back to New York.

She soon married again and Dan grew up alongside his four step-siblings. When his mother died in childbirth in 1836, thirteen year-old Dan ran away from home and supported himself by working at a racetrack as a stable and exercise boy. Eventually, he became a professional jockey.

Dan next tried acting for a career but he didn't take to it. By the age of seventeen, Dan had married his first wife, Maggie Curran. By the time he was twenty, the two were part of a traveling circus. Dan began to use the last name "Rice," a family name on his mother's side. By 1848, Dan had traveled with the Barnum Circus throughout Europe and was able to come home and start his own "Great Show." George Washington had attended the first circus in the United States in 1793 in Philadelphia. Circuses were originally intended as adult entertainment. Animal acts and feats of strength were featured. Hoochy koochy girls put on private shows in tents. Behind the tents, alcohol was served and gambling took place. In the Summer of 1865, Rice's sideshow featured a graphic tableau of the murder of Lincoln and attempted assassination of Seward.

Dan was an expert animal trainer, horse man, singer, dancer, comedian, orator, satirist, and Shakespearean player. But his specialty was provocative humor mixed with serious political opinions. So revered and influential was he, that in 1848, Zachary Taylor asked Dan to campaign for him. Taylor even rode on Dan's festooned circus wagon thus inspiring the phrase "jump onto the band wagon."

By 1852, Dan Rice was earning over one thousand dollars a week, more than twice the salary of the President of the United States. He, Maggie, and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, set up Winter headquarters for the circus in Girard, Pennsylvania. Dan built a mansion and settled in. The town was unhappy having circus folk and animals for neighbors but Dan won them over with free shows and donations to their churches and schools. Generous to a fault, Dan often lent and gave away more money than he had.

Dan and Maggie divorced in 1860. Dan's drinking and gambling contributed heavily to the split. But by 1861, the thirty eight year old showman had won the heart of an eighteen year old local girl, Rebecca McConnell. They married against her parents' wishes. When their six month old daughter, Lottie, died of a respiratory illness, Rebecca plunged herself heart and soul into the world of the circus.

Dan had grown up in an anti-abolitionist milieu and was a Northern Peace Democrat. He strongly opposed Lincoln and was quite vocal about it, whether he was center stage or in the barrooms of the cities he visited. In 1864, he ran as a Democrat for a seat in the State Senate but lost. In 1866, he started a run for Congress but withdrew. In 1867, the Democratic Party actively courted Dan to be their nominee for President of the United States.

All Hell broke loose. Horace Greeley denounced a "professional clown" for daring to speak of state affairs. Greeley accused Rice of disloyalty because of the stand he had taken against Lincoln. Many citizens remembered that Dan had performed in New Orleans standing in front of a Confederate flag. Though Dan financed the first monument in the country dedicated to Civil War Soldiers on November 1, 1865, many citizens remembered that Dan had refused to take sides during the War. He needed to

keep his business running wherever the circus might travel to. After the War, he provided financial assistance to both North and South, helping to rebuild schools and churches and re-establish ruined communities. Dan's loyalty was questionable to too many people. He withdrew from the Presidential race.

After the Civil War was over, people began to consider the circus low brow entertainment. Business slowed and Dan's drinking and gambling worsened. He began the slide into dire poverty. Rebecca divorced him in 1881. Dan left the town of Girard, Rebecca, and his son, Dan Jr., and never returned.

Dan claimed to have been friends with Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and Robert E. Lee and boasted that he was a "court jester" to many famous politicians. Perhaps some of these men might have seen him entertain but there is no proof that he ever met any of them. Dan was never able to regain his fortune, fame, or his health. He died of Bright's Disease (kidney disorder) on February 22, 1900. He is buried in the First Methodist Church Cemetery in Long Branch, NJ. Unable to pay for a gravestone, his burial place was unmarked for over seventy years. Finally, the citizens of Girard, PA raised money for a small stone.



Rice was inducted into the Clown Hall of Fame in 1991. Every August for the last fifty years, the citizens of Girard host a Dan Rice Festival. Dan Rice would love it.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Christmas Eve 1862 from Harper's Weekly

