

# Bugle



### **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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### President's Message for April 2010

Our move to the Denny's in Clovis on the southeast corner of Willow and Shaw appears to be a success. Our March meeting was attended by 26 people and, if all of our regular attendees had been present, we would have had 30-32. We didn't bump elbows in the banquet room at the rear of the restaurant and doors minimized noise from the rest of the facility, including the kitchen. As a result, we will again be at the Denny's in Clovis for our meeting on April 8.

Our program on Thursday, April 8 begins at 7 pm, so please arrive at 6 pm and order from the menu immediately. This will allow the cooks to prepare meals as orders are made and allow us to complete our eating (and pay our checks) before 7 pm. We want to avoid having the servers disrupt the presentation by distributing checks and taking payment.

Alex Fabros, a member of the SJVCWRT, is our speaker on April 8. He will discuss the Battle of Raymond, Mississippi, using military miniatures to depict the tactics employed during the battle. I have never seen a battle reenacted in this manner, so in my mind, this is somewhat like the war room in the movie The Longest Day. In this movie the invasion of Normandy is shown with models repositioned on an aerial view of the battlefield using shuffleboard type sticks as information reaches the headquarters by radio and telephone beneath London. This will be a very interesting talk.

I look forward to seeing you at Denny's in Clovis on Shaw just east of Willow at 6pm on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

David D

### **AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT Meeting 3/11/20**

By Ron Vaughan

This was our first meeting at the new location, Clovis Denny's Resturant. There were 24 persons present. It was a bit crowded, but a quiet room.

Treasurer Schulze reported our bank balance was \$2096. Tim Desmond announced a Sons of Confederate Veterans raffle of a painting he did, for the purpose of building a memorial for CW soldiers at Kearny Park. The progeam was yours truly, talking about "Fighting For Their Freedom, African American Soldiers in The Civil War."

By 1860 there were about four million African American slaves in the South. There were a few free Blacks in the South, mostly around New Orleans and Charleston. Many owned property, some owned businesses, and a few even owned slaves-- strange as it may seem. But the majority labored on their white master's farms and plantations. As the Civil War began in 1861, there were three questions in the minds of Northerners and Southerners regarding slaves:

- 1. Did the slaves want their freedom? 2. Would the slaves rebel?
- 3. Would they fight for their freedom? The answers to these questions was yes, but in a manner that reflected the peculiar experience and circumstances of Blacks in white America. The Southern writers propagated the "myth of the happy slaves." But this was proved to be untrue, as hundreds and thousands of slaves took the chance to free themselves, by fleeing to Union lines, whenever the proximity of Union forces made successful escape likely.

As to the second question, There were only a couple of instances of slave rebellion in the South, and they were brutally suppressed. A lucky few slaves escaped to freedom in the North. Some like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth participated in the "Under-Ground Rail Road" and gained freedom for themselves and assisted others to flee. The rest continued to serve, but as Stephen Ash wrote, "They resisted their exploitation in quiet ways... laughing at the foibles of their masters behind their backs, feigning illness and clumsiness and stupidity, but few dared to challenge the institution openly." The slaves developed various survival strategies, which were passed along through folk tales, such as the "Brer Rabbit" tales. In the stories, the hare was the weakest animal in the forest, but could triumph over the larger animals through guile and wit, tricking the more powerful animals into using their strength against themselves. Slaves never confronted their owners directly, but learned the skills of "handling" master.

As the war progressed and Southern manpower shortages became more acute. Management of agriculture increasingly fell to the white women, elderly fathers, and Black slave drivers. They were less effective taskmasters, as they had no experience in day to day supervi-

## From the Fresno Morning Republican June 3, 1898, p. 3.

### A DESERT MARCH

Record of the California
Troops in '61. Made the Long
Journey from California to Texas
on Foot.

Editor Republican: While the volunteers are going to the front in the war with Spain it will be interesting to recall that in the perilous days between 1861 and 1865, California furnished more than her quota of patriots who offered their lives in defense of the flag. Sixteen thousand men enlisted in the Union Army in addition to the five hundred Californians who joined the Massachusetts troops and the eight companies raised to supply the quota required from Washington territory. The men of brawn who were delving for gold eagerly laid down their picks and shovels and went forth to do battle top preserve the Union. The records of their achievements will long endure as marvelous exhibitions of endurance and courage.

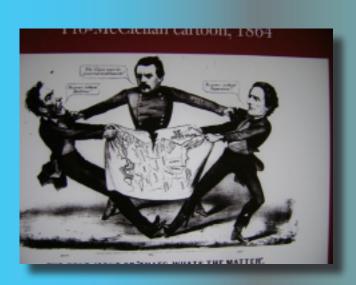
The California troops occupied nearly every post from Puget Sound to San Antonia, and the march of the California soldiers from this state to Texas received the following notice from brigadier-General W. JH. Carleton's report:

The march of the Column from California across the Great Desert in the summer months, in the driest season that has been know for thirty years, is a military achievement creditsion of farming. The slaves quickly took advantage of the situation. They developed a form of resistance by reducing the pace of their labor, disobeying orders, going off to visit friends and relatives. This work slow down greatly effected Southern production and hampered their war effort. At the same time, Southern fears of slave rebellion kept many Confederate troops on guard duty, instead of being involved in combat.

The answer to the question of would they fight was a definite yes! At first the Union was reluctant to allow Blacks to enlist as soldiers, but eventually manpower shortages, resistance to conscription, and abolitionist pressure, caused the Union to begin recruiting Blacks. African American units fought valiantly. Regiments, such as the 54th Massachusetts the Louisiana Native Guards, or the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry gained fame for their valor, despite losing numerous casualties. These Black soldiers sacrificed themselves, so that their fellows still in bondage could be free.

Despite early battle successes of Black soldiers, there were many Union generals, especially Sherman, who mistrusted them. Most were assigned to garrison and fatigue duties. However, each Black soldier doing such duty, freed another soldier for combat. It is difficult to see how Grant or Sherman could have had the numerical superiority to win, without the service of 200,000 "U. S. Colored Troops". The service of the Black soldiers and sailors gave the Union Army a crucial addition of manpower, without which the North might have been unable to subdue the Confederate States of America. The African Americans played a vital role in determining the outcome of the American Civil War

## For those of you unable to visit the Abraham Lincoln display in Oakhurst here are some pictures



able to the soldiers of the American Army. But it would not be just to attribute the success of this small of this march to any ability on my part. That success was only gained by the high physical and moral energies of that peculiar class of officers and men who compose the Column from California. With any other troops, I am sure I should have failed. I send you a set of colors which have been born by this Column. They were hoisted by Colonel West over Forts Thorn. Fillmore and over Mesilla, N. Mex., and over Fort Bliss, in Texas. They were hoisted by Captain Cremony over Fort Quitman, and by Captain Shirland over Fort Davis, in Texas, and thus again have those places been consecrated to our beloved

[signed] "One of the Column"

## From the Fresno Weekly Republican, March 18, 1898.

### LAID TO REST

Funeral of General W. S. Rosecrans.

Union and Confederate Veterans Follow the Remains to the Graveside.

"Los Angeles, March 16.
- The funeral of Major General William Stark Rosecrans was held in this city today and was the most impressive ceremony this city has ever witnessed.

At 10 o'clock requiem high mass was celebrated at the cathedral, Bishop Montgomery officiating, assisted by members







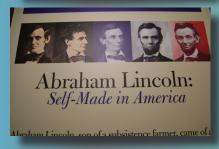


















of the clergy from all parts of the diocese.

The procession formed with General Last and staff at its head, followed by a troop of cavalry and the Seventh Regiment band and signal corps. Colonel Berry and staff, at the head of Companies, A, C, F, and I, Seventh Infantry, N.G.C., sons of Veterans, Confederates' Association, Grand Army, Loyal Legion and Union Veterans' League followed.

The services at the cemetery were brief. There was music and short addresses by Rev. Will A. Knighten, Hon. F. Glaze, Captain J. C. Oliver, F. W. Stain, and F. H. Poindexter. At the conclusion of the services one of the infantry companies fired a salute to three volleys over the tomb, taps was sounded and the warrior left to his rest.

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