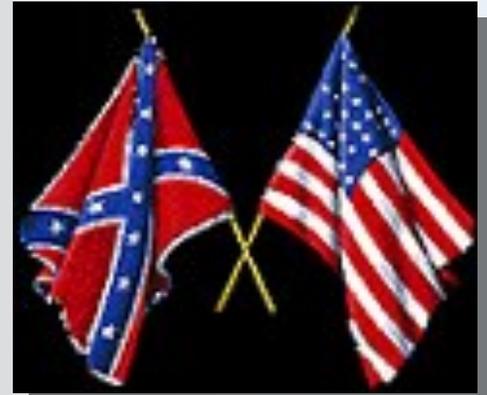




BUGLE CALLS



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 20 Number 3

P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755 MARCH

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MARCH 2012

What a fun meeting we had last month. Our speakers came through like champions and gave us a spirited and interesting presentation. Wayne's pictures of his tour were very interesting. I want to thank both Wayne Scott and Steve Ganner for doing a great job. I know that Ron will give a full after action report, so I will not go into detail about the program.

Speaking of programs, our friend Fred Bohmfalk will be presenting his outstanding presentation about Civil War Alcatraz at our next meeting. Fred has great knowledge about this subject. He also volunteers his time and knowledge by acting as a guide at Alcatraz. I had the pleasure of getting a tour from Fred and let me tell you it was outstanding. We are in for a real treat.

By the time this newsletter comes out I will be tromping around the area around Vicksburg, Mississippi. I have been involved in an eight part tour presented by the Blue and Gray Education Society which follows the full story of the Battle of Vicksburg. It has been fascinating to learn about this pivotal battle. It was not just the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4 1863, but how, where, and why this major turning point in the war came about.

Over the past three years the programs have taken us from Eastern Mississippi at Holly Springs where Earl Van Dorn surprised Grant's forces and destroyed Grant's supplies. The tour followed Bedford Forrest on his raid from the Northern border of Mississippi all the way up into Kentucky and back. Another tour traveled the backwaters of the Mississippi Delta region where Sheraton tried to turn the corner on the Vicksburg defense. Another tour saw the canal that Grant tried to build so that he could divert the Mississippi around Vicksburg and make that hilltop city of no strategic value to the Confederacy by getting the Mississippi to change course and allow ships to travel well out of range of the city's guns. In that same tour we traveled muddy and winding roads out into Louisiana where Grant took his army south of the city and then we saw the place where one of the greatest amphibious operations in the history of warfare was carried out without a shot being fired at the attacking army. It is like the invasion of France in 1944 without the Germans trying to stop the invasion. After that, one of the tours took us across country into the heartland of Mississippi. In this tour, we stud-

ied the battles of Raymond and Jackson. This was the harbinger of tactics to come with Sherman and his drive to Atlanta and then on to Savannah.

The next tour saw us walking the path of both armies as they slugged it out at Champion Hill and the Battle of the Big Black River.

After all this running around we will finally had the opportunity to start the attack and the beginning of the siege of Vicksburg. We will now start looking at the National Park at Vicksburg. I am looking forward to the four days that we will be going into great detail about the movements of the troops as well as the action that took place at the beginning of the battle. I will be going back to Mississippi in November to finish up on the battle.

Most of the time the Blue and Gray does their programs at about the same time of year as when the battle took place. They have been wise enough to schedule these tours in the spring and fall so that the participants do not have to suffer the heat and humidity that most the soldiers had to endure. Most of us are getting up in age and some of us just might not be able to handle that kind of weather. I know I'm a wuss.

While I am on this tour, I will be attending a Board Meeting of the Friends of Raymond. I will be bringing them a picture of our executive board and letting them know that we are very much involved in their effort to preserve and interpret this battle.

I know that I will have a great time and will let you know how it came out.

I have been putting in the Bugle Call the information that I have been receiving from General Hills about his archeological work at the Battlefield at Raymond. I have found this information very interesting and exciting. We are being able to see the history of this battle being re written. This time with scientific proof as to what was going on. I hope that you are enjoying it as much as I am.

It is my intent [I know the road to hell is built on good intentions] to follow the Civil War month by month in my report.

I will start with February 1862 and go forward from then. I will indicate where the action is taking place so that the whole scope of the war can be followed. The war didn't just take place in the east between Virginia and Pennsylvania; it took place in the west around Kentucky and Tennessee, along the Mississippi river, along the coast of the south and also in the far west in those lands west of the Mississippi. I will indicate where the action is taking place so that we can follow along and see that warfare was taking place in different areas at the same time.

My source is "THE CIVIL WAR YEARS" by Gregory J.W. Urwin.

February 1, 1862 in the West

Flag officer Foote started off up the Tennessee River to attack Fort Henry.

February 5, 1862 Fort Henry

The water level has flooded the lower fort and Confederate General Tilghman and his 3000 troops are in very low morale.

February 6, 1862 Fort Henry

Foote and his gunboats capture Fort Henry. Foote has four iron clad ships and three timber clad ships in his flotilla. His forces are the ones that capture the fort. Tilghman has sent most of his men cross country to fort Donelson.

February 7, 1862 Roanoke Island North Carolina

The assault on Roanoke Island has gotten underway. Union forces led by General Ambrose Burnside heavily bombarded Fort Barrow at Pork Point.

February 8, 1862 Roanoke Island

The battle resumes starting at 9 A.M. Obstructions sunk by the Confederates have been cleared and the Union gun boats can enter Albemarle Sound. Only token resistance is put up by the Confederates and the back door is now open to Norfolk is now open.

February 12, 1862 Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, the West.

Grant's troops are now in a ring around the fort.

February 14, 1862 Grant and Flag officer Foote start their assault on Fort Donelson. Foote is wounded in the foot and has to relinquish control of the fleet. He will later die from his wound.

February 15, 1862 Fort Donelson

The Union attack continues and the Confederates are driven back into the fort. The situation looks hopeless for the Confederate forces and the plan is to surrender the fort the next day. Confederate Lt. Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest decides to lead his men out of the fort. He and his men find a way through a swamp and escape. Many of the Confederate infantry men hold on to the tails of Forrest men's horses and are able to escape.

February 16, 1862 Fort Donelson

Confederate General Simon Buckner asks Grant for terms of surrender of the Confederate forces. Grant replies that the terms are no terms other than the unconditional and immediate surrender of all Confederate forces. From this statement Grant gets his nickname US Grant... Unconditional Surrender Grant.

February 17, 1862 Nashville Tennessee

Generals Floyd and Pillow [Confederate Generals who had fled from Fort Donelson before its surrender] arrive in Nashville and meet with Confederate General Albert S. Johnson. [Forrest and his men will arrive the next day]

U.S. Grant is promoted to Major General of Volunteers by a grateful government.

February 19, 1862 Florida

Robert E. Lee is charged with the defense of the state and is finding it a difficult task. He has few men, little supplies, and an almost nonexistent rail road system.

February 20, 1862 Washington City

William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln age 11 dies of typhoid fever. Both of his parents are devastated. It is believed that he contracted the disease from drinking the water that was supplied in the White House. His mother will lock herself up in the White House in a deep depression. She will wear black for a long time after Willie's death.

February 22, 1862 Richmond Virginia

Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the first president of the Confederate States of America.

February 25, 1862 Nashville Tennessee

Federal troops occupy the city and will remain in control of the city until the end of the war. Huge stockpiles of supplies that were intended for Confederate forces in Virginia were seized. This is a major loss to the Confederacy.

February 27, 1862 Richmond Virginia

The Confederate Congress gives Davis the right to suspend habeas corpus, something that Lincoln had already done. Davis, unlike Lincoln, would use this power very little during the war.

March 3, 1862 New Madrid Mo. along the Mississippi River

Union General John Pope starts his assault on New Madrid Mo.

Union General Halleck relieves U.S. Grant because he "hadn't reported properly during the operations and because of the rumors that Grant had fallen off the wagon and became a drunkard again. Grant was relieved by Brigadier General Charles Smith. [Smith would be injured at Pittsburg Landing where he fell and scraped his shin. He would later die of the resulting infection. It wasn't always a bullet that got you.]

Halleck orders Smith to take the army up the Tennessee River.

March 5, 1862 Tennessee River at Savannah Tennessee

General Smith's forces reach Savannah which is located just a little North of Corinth Mississippi [Corinth is a major rail-road hub for this area of the South] Smith's troop continue up the Tennessee River and disembark at Pittsburg Landing Tennessee. The area is a wilderness with few people living in the area. A short way from the landing is a small rural church with the name of Shiloh. More about this area later.

March 6, 1862 North of Fayetteville Arkansas the Trans Mississippi West

Union General Samuel Curtis has his four divisions dug in along Sugar Creek waiting for the Confederate forces lead by

General Earl Van Dorn.

Van Dorn does not like the odds that he is facing, so he orders forces on a long hard night march around the union entrenchments. It is a bitterly cold and wet night and the Confederate troops suffer badly, but in the morning of March 6, Van Dorn has gotten his forces behind the Union forces and he orders his troops forward and attacks the Union at a place called Pea Ridge.

March 7, 1862 Pea Ridge Trans Mississippi West

The battle of Pea Ridge continues all day. The Confederates lose General Benjamin McCulloch and General James McIntosh. The loss of these two leaders causes much confusion in the ranks of the Confederacy.

March 7, 1862 Washington City

General George McClellan starts moving his massive army south to attack the Confederacy.

March 8, 1862 Pea Ridge Trans Mississippi West

Confederate General Van Dorn beats a hasty retreat back over the Boston Mountains. The Union under General Curtis has won the day.

March 8, 1862 Hampton Roads Virginia

The Confederate Iron Clad C.S.S. Virginia [formerly the USS Meramec] steams out of Norfolk. Confederate commander Flag Officer Buchanan commands the Virginia. The ship attacks and destroys several Union wooden ships. The history of naval warfare has just changed forever.

March 9, 1862 Hampton Roads Virginia

At about 9 A.M. the CSS Virginia steams out into the Roads to finish what she had started the day before. She is met by the Union Iron Clad USS Monitor and the two iron clads blast at each other at close range. After four hours of fighting both ships break off the engagement.

March 11, 1862 Washington City

General McClellan is relieved of his duties as Commander in Chief. He is replaced by General Halleck. McClellan still retains the title of Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

March 14, 1862 New Madrid Mo. Mississippi theater

General Pope had found that the Confederates have abandoned Island number 10 but he still hasn't occupied the island. Flag Officer Foote in Cairo Ill is making plans to attack the Island.

New Bern North Carolina

General Burnside's forces have captured the town.

March 15, 1862 Island 10 on the Mississippi River

Flag officer Foote's flotilla has reached island 10 but a deep fog stops his attempt to take the island.

Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River

General Halleck has reconsidered his orders relieving General Grant of command and orders him to relieve General Smith, who had injured himself while getting on a boat.

Halleck orders General Don Carlos Buell to take his forces to Pittsburg Landing. Instead of coming by boat, Buell decides to march his forces overland.

March 17, 1862 Pittsburg Landing

Grant arrives at Pittsburg Landing and decides to set up his headquarters in the town of Savannah.

Alexandria Virginia

Union troops march to Alexandria and prepare to load onto ships that will take them to the York Peninsula.

March 19, 1862 Island 10 Mississippi

Foote and his gunboats continue to bombard the island ten in an attempt to get the forts to surrender.

March 20, 1862 Ship Island Gulf of Mexico just out from the mouth of the Mississippi River

General Benjamin Butler takes command of the Army forces that will be used to attack and conquer the city of New Orleans La.

Richmond Va.

President Davis comes up with a plan to fortify Derry's Bluff. This location will hold back the Union fleet from being able to sail right into Richmond

General Burnside's has things under control in his area of responsibility.

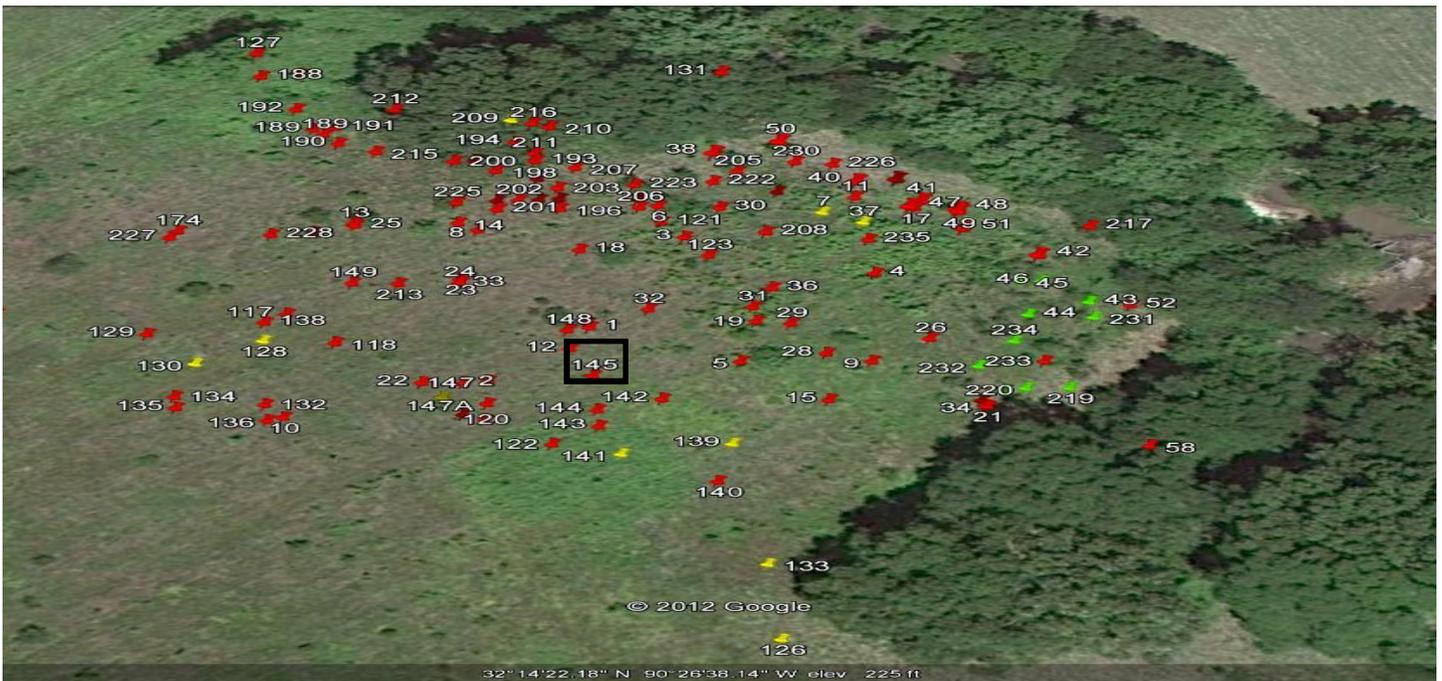
Next Month April

Thanks for sticking with me.

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT.

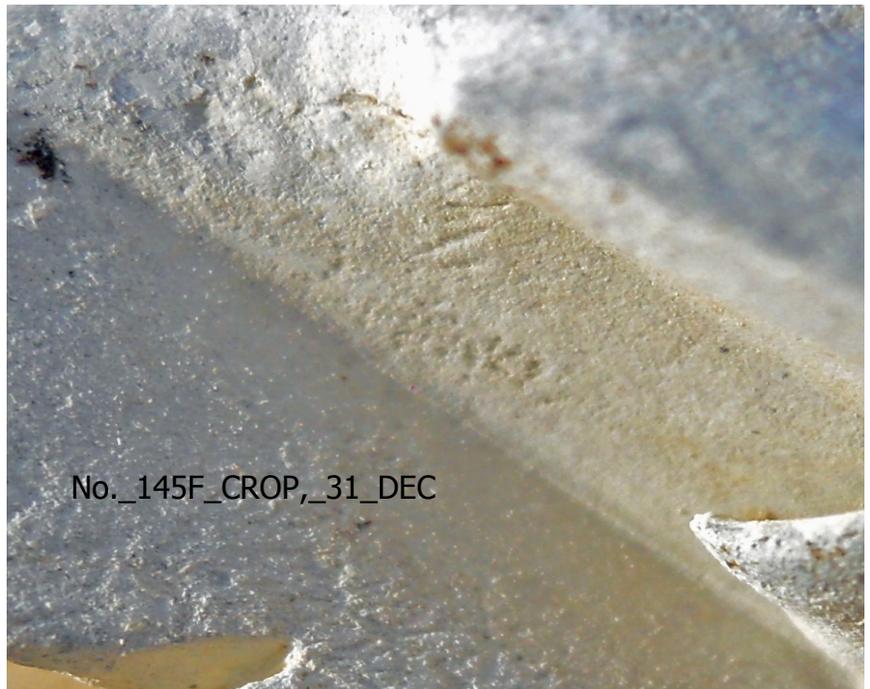
Raymond_Reloc_finds_map_upper_field_close



No._145C
_CROP,_3
1_DEC



Split_Minie
_2_small,
31_DEC_1
2



No._145F_CROP,_31_DEC

Just got this from Parker. Some very interesting information in particular the bullet that seems to have hit a bayonet. Should be some good stuff from the news letter.

Mike

Subject: Raymond Archaeology: Bullet and Bayonet

I have been keeping some of you updated on the archaeology work we have been doing at Raymond. Here is what we have accomplished so far:

Before my last term expired as president of the Friends of Raymond (FOR) Board of Directors in February 2011, I created a committee called the Historical Interpretation Committee and assigned myself as chair. Since I was rolling off the FOR Board of Directors for the first time since 2002, I wanted to maintain input while letting others run the show.

Most of you know that in June 2009 FOR, with the help of the Civil War Trust, purchased 67 acres of core battlefield property after a three-year fund-raising effort. FOR then gave the farming rights to the property to The Gaddis Farms in exchange for a preservation easement on Artillery Ridge. While FOR immediately began work placing guns on the ridge, The Gaddis Farms worked with FOR to clear the jungle of grass and brush off the recently-purchased property, and by the spring of 2011 the former fields of sedge grass and scrub had been transformed into rolling, verdant fields of soybeans. After the bean crop was harvested that fall, the cleared fields presented a "battlefield detectives" opportunity. So, the Historical Interpretation committee went to work.

We searched the battlefield by grids on 17 Dec, 21 Dec, 23 Dec, 27 Dec, 29 Dec, 31 Dec, 6 Jan, 20 Jan, 21 Jan, 22 Jan, 27 Jan, and 28 Jan. We are finished for now, but I am working toward getting permission to hunt on private property north of Fourteenmile Creek, which is also core battlefield area. We have sloshed through ankle-deep mud, and it has been mostly pretty chilly, but not too cold, though very windy down in the lowlands of the creek bottom. But what we have found has provided wonderful data.

Let me refresh you on our methodology:

I divided the new 69 acres into what I call the "Upper Field," the "Middle Field," and the "Lower Field." I use two or sometimes three relic hunters that I trust. They spread out a few hundred feet apart so that their machines will not interfere with one another, and search a selected grid. Every time they find an item, I walk (slog) my way to their location; record on a sheet what they have found; clean the item in the field as best I can; put it into a small, numbered zip-loc bag, and record item number, description, and the GPS coordinate where it was found. I then fill in the dig hole and place a wire flag on the spot. We do this all day, eating a sandwich for lunch in the field. When I get home that night I hose down my boots and pants, then type the data onto a log sheet, place the relic by a colored pin onto a Google Earth map by GPS coordinate, and toothbrush clean the relics. I have all the small relic bags in larger zip-loc bags with the date found labeled on the bag.

Here are some key observations so far:

1. In the Upper Field we have found almost exclusively buckshot and .58 caliber Minie balls. There were lots and lots of buckshot, and a handful of .69 caliber round balls. This should be the area where the 7th Texas fought the 20th OH, and later the 20th IL. It tells us that the Texans were using .69 cal. smoothbore muskets with .65 cal. buck and .32 cal. ball and, in most instances, probably just .32 cal. buckshot. This would have been very effective in the thick woods along the creek.

2. In the Upper Field we have located the fence line. From the diary of the 20th IL soldier, Allen Morgan Geer, that I acquired in October 2010 while working on *Vicksburg: Mississippi Blitzkrieg* (soon to be released), that soldier describes the distance from the creek (in paces and rods) to the fence that the 20th IL hid behind after falling back out of the woods. Please keep in mind that, while the sketches of the on-the-scene newspaper artist, Theodore Davis, clearly show the Federals fighting behind a fence, this is the only diary account that mentions their using the fence for a fighting position. I measured the distance that Geer described and we started finding dropped (unfired) .58 cal. Minie balls in almost a straight line across the field. We also found several .69 cal. round balls and Enfield rounds that were fired and flattened, as though they had hit a hard object at near point-blank range. You can even see the ridges on the balls

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Sent: Wed, Feb 22, 2012 10:16 am
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3. In the Middle Field we have found .58 Minie balls, Enfield rifle balls, and even a Pritchard rifle bullet. This is almost certainly the area where the 3rd TN fought, and we now know that the armament of those soldiers was more rifle-musket than smoothbore. We also found, about 275 yards downrange from the 3rd TN position and well behind the Union lines, a .58 cal. Minie ball that had been fired from an Enfield rifle. This indicated that the Confederates were firing captured Federal ammunition. I'll tell you how we knew that in another email.

4. In the lower field we see what appears to be the refusing of a line by a military unit that was facing forward, then made a turning movement. This is probably where the 3rd TN raced out into the field and took devastating enfilading fire from the 31st IL and head-on fire from the 45th IL, 81st IL, and 23rd IN.

5. We found several small campsites near Fourteenmile Creek and on the periphery of the fought-over areas. The diary of the soldier from the 20th IL mentions small details of men (usually about 15 men) remaining behind to care for the wounded and bury the dead. I'll tell you more about that later.

6. We have found a number of .69 cal. "Fat Boy" Minie balls in the Lower Field, indicating that at least one U.S. unit, or members of that unit, carried that weapon. Why U.S.? They were found dropped within what we think was the Union line.

OK, so much for the update. Let me show you something that I discovered this weekend while going over the relic list and trying to answer a question that was nagging me in the back of my mind each night:

Look at the photo attached of "Split Minie 2 small, 31 DEC." This bullet was found at the fence line in the Upper Field where we determined that the Federals fell back to after the 7th Texas and 3rd Tennessee drove them from the creek bed (see item #145 almost in the dead center of the attached map). Notice the split nose of the bullet in the photo. That bullet hit something hard and sharp. I have been thinking about what this could have been since we found the relic on 31 December.

I had a "Eureka moment" this past Sunday, and formed a hypothesis on what caused the split in the bullet. After church I drove down to the Raymond Visitor Center with the bullet to check out my theory. There we have an original Springfield rifle bayonet, on loan from Wallace McMillan. I placed the bullet over the ridge on the triangular bayonet, and it fit perfectly. See the photo No. 145C Crop, 31 DEC.

I then came home and took the macro photo (see 145F CROP, 31 DEC) of the inside of the split in the bullet, and you can plainly see the flat area between the two straight lines, caused by the flat area on the ridge of the bayonet. Undoubtedly, this fired .58 caliber Minie ball struck a bayonet. This was up close and personal combat.

The ground is giving up a lot of secrets. I'll send you some other interesting finds later.

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Parker

OK, here is another Raymond archaeology update.

In the Middle Field we found a line of dropped .58 caliber Minié balls and a number of Enfield bullets. The team is working to ascertain if this line of dropped Miniés was indeed a Union battle line or was it a line where the 3rd Tennessee charged across the creek and went to ground after receiving fire in the left flank and rear from the soldiers of the 31st Illinois? If so, then the Tennesseans may well have been using captured .58 caliber Minié balls in their Enfields, and the evidence seems to support that theory. We need to get into the trees of the Middle Field and bush-hog the undergrowth so that we can better search the area. Undergrowth (mostly vines, blackberry stickers, and cat's-claw briars) prevents the metal detector from getting close enough to the ground to pick up a signal, not to mention what they do to the human carrying the detector. I am still healing from the scratches on my legs and arms, although I wore heavy pants, high boots, and a woolen long-sleeve shirt on each excursion.

Alan Polk, a lawyer, and I hunted by ourselves on several Fridays, and on Friday, 27 January, we found a fired .58 caliber Minié ball 300 yards downrange from the Middle Field (see No. 184 at the far left of the attached map). This bullet was unusual, and we knew that it deserved a more professional look in order to confirm our suspicions. I photographed the badly-bent bullet and the images were emailed to an expert, Peter C. George, co-author of "Field Artillery Projectiles of the Civil War." Our suspicions were confirmed a week later when Mr. George advised that the Minié ball had the unmistakable "cup" marking on the nose, which was formed when a .58 caliber Springfield Minié ball had been "hard-rammed" by a .577 caliber Enfield ramrod. The Enfield ramrod has a smaller diameter "cup" on the ramming end than does a Springfield, thus the circular "cup" indentation on the bullet. Of course, the .577 caliber Enfield rifle could fire either an Enfield bullet or a .58 caliber Springfield Minie ball.

"Hard-rammed" means that the Enfield musket barrel was so fouled with black powder residue after continued firing that the Springfield bullet had to be shoved hard down the constricted barrel. Pete George said that a good deal of force had been used to shove this bullet down the barrel, and that in some instances bullets were so tight that the ramrod was either banged with a rock or pushed against a tree to force the bullet downward. One could almost picture a sweating and battle-begrimed Tennessee Confederate, out of ammunition after continued fighting, scavenging through the cartridge box of a downed or captured Union soldier to find some .58 caliber Minié balls, then loading these balls with great difficulty into his fouled musket.

Also found was a .58 caliber Minié ball that was "reversed wormed," that is, the bullet was loaded into the weapon upside down and had to be "wormed," or removed from the barrel with a corkscrew-like device, with the worm digging into the bullet's base (see No. 169, a yellow pin just to the right of center of map). That would be consistent with a .58 caliber Minié loaded into a .577 caliber Enfield, because the Enfield bullet was situated in the paper cartridge upside down, while a .58 caliber Minié ball was right side up. A Confederate soldier using captured .58 caliber Minié ball ammunition might, through force of habit of flipping the Enfield bullet over, turn the Minié ball upside down and load it incorrectly. Almost every relic, therefore, provided a clue to the action, but only when considered in its exact location to the other relics found in the field.

We also found a "blow-through" Enfield round downrange from the Middle Field (see No. 175 in upper left corner of map). Sometimes a poorly-cast bullet had a weak spot, and when the weapon was fired the gases would blow through the skin of the bullet. The location of this bullet means that it could have been fired by

the Texans in the Upper Field (their skirmish company carried Enfields, while the remainder of the regiment seems to have been armed with smoothbores, this per COL Granbury's report), or by a Tennessean from the Middle Field. My guess is that it came from the Texans, as a "blow-through" would have necessarily shortened the range of the round. Had it been fired from the Upper Field the range would have been around 185 yards. Had it been fired from the Middle Field, the range would have been around 250 yards.

Parker



No._184_nose_crop



No._175,_21_JAN_12_ SMALL



Split_Minie_2_small ,_31_DEC_12



Wormed_.58_SMALL

Here is some more information on our archaeological study at Raymond. I hope you enjoy reading and viewing this as much as my team did in finding these relics. I know it takes time to download the photos, although I have reduced them in size to expedite the process. If you would prefer I stop sending you these updates, just let me know. Not everyone has the time to read all my ramblings, and I would certainly understand. After all, some of y'all have work to do.

So, down to business:

Two days before Christmas, and very unexpectedly, we came upon a camp site. We were neither looking for, nor expecting, to find such a thing. I knew that soldiers did not camp on a battlefield, simply due to the smells, sounds, and general carnage strewn about. But, I also knew that details of 15 or so soldiers were usually left behind on the battlefield in order to care for the wounded and bury the dead (see photo of a typical burial detail "Burial Detail Small"). It did not dawn on me--but it should have--that such details would have camped on the battlefield, with at least one soldier minding the campfire and boiling the coffee while the others went about their grisly tasks. In fact, one diary of an Illinois soldier wounded at Raymond mentions the burial and nursing detail that remained behind on the battlefield to care for him. He said that the main body of troops moved into town, but that the wounded were not evacuated into town until the day after the battle.

We located three such burial detail camp sites, each one on the peripheries of the Upper, Middle, and Lower fields. All were on the edge of the fighting "hot spots," and all were close to water, or "wet camps." After all, you need water to make coffee.

At the first camp site we discovered on the northwestern edge of the Middle Field (see map in close-up view of Middle Field, green pins #160-164 and #73), we dug into a layer of charcoal about a foot down, indicative of a camp fire. It was a thick layer of charcoal, very black and pasty, not the type of shallow, spotty, charcoal layer caused by a ground fire. We also found one Minie ball bullet that was carved into a chess piece and a .65 cal. round ball with carving marks on it (see photo "Balls 2, 27 DEC SMALL"). We found melted lead, 6 eagle buttons, and the remnants of a silver mechanical pencil (see photo "Pencils, Buttons, Ring, 27 DEC"). The letters "T" and "H" had been crudely scratched into the end of the flat space on the silver skin of the pencil (which was embossed with a snakeskin pattern--see photo "Silver Mech. Pencil, 27 DEC 11 SMALL") where the name was to be engraved, indicating these were the last letters in the man's name. The buttons and the pen fragments being found atop one another indicates that this man was proba-

bly wounded and his bloody jacket was taken off and left on the ground. We can only guess, but the jacket was probably too gory to be salvaged, thus, it lay there until we found the buttons and pencil. We also found some unfired pistol bullets, probably from the jacket because they were found in the same spot, so the jacket could have belonged to an officer. The fact that the six buttons are not the same size hints that this man might have been a Confederate.

These "jacket relics" were found on the edge of the Middle Field, where the 3rd TN fought, but also near where the 7th Texas was very heavily engaged. There was a PVT. J. S. Smith, Co B, 3rd TN, who was wounded at Raymond. Could this have been his pencil? There was a MAJ William H. Smith, Co D, 7th TX, who was killed at Raymond. Could this have been his pencil? We may never know, but the evidence leans toward MAJ Smith. We searched long and hard for the rest of the pencil "skin," but to no avail. We will keep searching for the answer.

Note the photo of the round pencil "nose" (photo "Pencil Tip & lead, 27 DEC 11 SMALL"). The nose still has several pieces of graphite lead inside. Carol, my Chief of Staff (wife who controls all the money), would not believe me when I told her that there was lead in the nose. One piece of lead fell out while I was cleaning the relic, and, to quote the Monkees, Carol said, "I'm a believer." By the way, I put the lead back into the nose.

I also attach a photo of an identical silver mechanical pencil found near Gettysburg (photo "Silver Mech. Pencil GIF"). The nose is missing from this pencil, which has a Sergeant Major's name professionally engraved on the skin.

At the camp site on the Lower Field, we found a .65 cal. round ball that a soldier had begun to carve into a die, as in a pair of dice (see photo "No. 170B, 20 JAN 12 SMALL"). See photo. It was simply too wet to explore that area further. We bush-hogged a small patch of weeds and almost got the tractor stuck, and Alan Polk and I were up to our ankles in water when we found this relic. When the weather gets dry, we will look at this area some more.

I hope to learn the location(s) of the actual burial trenches so that we can mark them, but not dig there. I have been told that there are two "old timers" in Brandon, MS, who relic hunted on the battlefield 30 or so years ago and found the burial site. One allegedly has a belt plate with a bullet hole in it. But his is pure hearsay. In any case, relic hunters love burial sites, because they supply belt buckles, buttons, knives, combs, and whatever else a dead soldier might have on his body. Of course, this is grave-robbing, and I want to make sure we do not accidentally become what I abhor.

OK, enough for now. I'll send y'all another installment later.

Parker



Pen-
cil,_Buttons,_Ring,_27_DEC_11_SMALL



Silver_Mech._Pencil



Balls_2,_27_DEC_11_SMALL

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 2/9/12

By Ron Vaughan

- The February meeting had 17 persons present.

Treasurer Walt Schulze reported that after sending \$2,500 to The Friends of Raymond, our remaining balance as of Jan 12th was \$1,862.

. V.P. Patty reported that Fred Bohmfalk will be speaking at our March meeting about Civil War Alcatraz.

. We discussed the possibility of hosting our 2013 RT Conference on a cruise ship. The costs for the Clovis Veterans building has gone up. The cost per person on a ship would be \$375 to 400. For each 15 rooms sold , we would get one free, which could be used to accommodate the speakers, saving us money.

. Our program was a debate between President Lincoln (Wayne Scott) and President Davis (Steve Ganner). Both played their roles to a T. They behaved as gentlemen, even down to their gloves. As for the debate itself, basically Lincoln stated that secession was illegal, while Davis argued that it was legal. I was expecting them to elaborate with more arguments, but I probably would have become lost in the legal arguments.

After a question and answer session, Wayne showed a number of slides from his summer trip to Gettysburg and Antietam.

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CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From The Blue and Gray Laughing

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. 'When the California Volunteers were busily engaged in building quarters near Salt Lake City, a lieutenant had charge of working parties. One morning the Sergeant reported three men missing from his work party. The Lieutenant demanded information and was informed that they could not be found. 'Well,, said the officer, 'hunt them up, and when found send half of them to me, and the other half to the stables.'"

'But, sir,' replied the Sergeant, 'there are only three missing.' 'Never mind that, Sergeant. If you can not find them, send them all to the guardhouse.'"

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150TH ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

Pea Ridge, Ark. 3/7-8

Moniter vs. Virginia 3/9

Glorietta Pass, Az