

Bugle Call Echoes

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
September 2005

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San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table to host 21st Annual West Coast Conference November 4 - 6 in Clovis

The SJVCWRT, American Legion Post 147 of Clovis, and the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army invite you to the 21st Annual Civil War Round Table Conference. "The Civil War and the Southwest" is the theme of this year's conference.

Three of the eight featured Civil War historians and enthusiasts will give the conference a big Texas slant.

Dr. Jerry Thompson, is Regents Professor of History at Texas A & M, is the author of 20 books, including *Civil War and Revolution on the Rio Grande Frontier*; *Civil War in the Southwest: Recollections of the Sibley Brigade*; and *Henry Hopkins Sibley: Confederate General of the West*.

Mr. Edward T Cotham, Jr., is President of the Terry Foundation in Houston, and also a lawyer and independent scholar. He is author of: *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston*; *Sabine Pass: the Confederacy's Thermopylae*; and *Uncle Sam's Nephews in the Gulf: The Illustrated Notebook of a Civil War Marine*.

Dr. David Paul Smith, author of *Frontier Defense in the Civil War: Texas Rangers and Rebels*, has also written numerous other publications and conference presentations.

Others who have agreed to make presentations include: Mr. Gene Armistead, California Military Museum; Steve Bogdan, Las Vegas CWRT; Dr. David Paul Davenport, SJVCWRT; Zoyd Lucy, independent scholar; Wayne Sherman of Solvang; and Mike Sorensen, CWRT of San Gabriel Valley.

Comfort Suites at 143 Clovis Avenue, 559-299-9992 and Best Western Clovis at 415 Clovis Avenue, 559-299-1547 have reserved a block of rooms for us at \$87 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference rate. The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building on Hughes and 6th, less than two blocks from the hotels. Register before Sept 1 and receive a special rate of \$125. This, and the regular registration price of \$150, includes all five conference meals. See page 3 for a registration form.

'Gettysburg' in Redlands

"Gettysburg, the Battle that Changed America" runs through Oct 2005 at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands. Anyone interested in driving down? Sept 24 looks good for Dave Davenport, at 277-3283 or davidpauldavenport@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Thanks National Civil War Assoc. where we have an anonymous 'benefactor' as their June newsletter reprinted in its entirety the info on our Nov. 4-6th 21st West Coast Civil War Conference in Clovis. Also, thanks to Pattie Spencer for taking this info to the Feb. meeting of the Peninsula Civil War Round Table.

RSVP for Oct. 6th Dinner and Fundraiser

We hope you will join us for the October 6th meeting at the Fresno Ramada. For this fundraising event tickets will be \$25.00. The Ramada is located at the Shaw off ramp on Highway 41. Contact Secretary Phyllis Mann at 229-3778 [afternoons or evenings, please] or by email at pfm02@cvip.net.

SJVCWRT June 25, 2005 Picnic

by Barbara Moats & Ron Vaughan
Unfortunately, more members missed the barbecue at the Kuykendall's than were in attendance. However, re-enactors from the 6th Iowa and the 3rd Arkansas filled the ranks and provided interesting fellowship and another aspect of why so many people take an interest in the Civil War. Those who were present enjoyed marvelous appetizers, desserts, thick steaks, and other great potluck items while relaxing under the shade of hill top trees. Many thanks to the

After Action Report SJVCWRT Meeting May 26, 2005

By Ron Vaughan

I was expecting Ray Silvia's presentation on Civil War Music to be the usual lecture highlighted with a few recordings from a boom box. No! Ray was a harmonica player! And a virtuoso one at that! He wore a belt with at least a dozen different harmonicas, which he utilized to entertain us with various toe tapping tunes.

Ray told us the harmonica came to the US in 1857 and became popular, especially in the South. Music flourished during the Civil War, especially among the soldiers who found that it helped to relieve boredom, raised spirits, and sometimes intimidated the enemy. Ray said a Confederate general remarked that they could have won the war if they had Yankee music and songs. The Southern songs were mostly jigs, which can't motivate soldiers.

The most popular song on both sides was 'Home Sweet Home', but General US Grant banned it, because it increased desertion. Other songs among the top ten, although not in order, were 'Shenandoah', 'Turkey in the Straw', 'Oh Suzanna' [the first coast to coast hit], 'Aura Lee', and 'Dixie', which was one of Lincoln's favorites.

Bev and Neil for hosting such an enjoyable afternoon.

We saw evidence of ashes and soot still floating by from the previous day when a grass fire broke out on two sides of the Kuykendall property and caused some damage but luckily didn't touch the house or shrubs immediately surrounding it. It took several air tankers and fire units to put out the several acre blaze. How they could so graciously host such a great afternoon after all that is a wonder. Thanks again!

The Civil War in the West

by Herbert M. Hart, USMC (retired)

Executive Director, Council on America's Military Past

"The time has arrived when individual rights must give way, and I shall not hesitate to adopt the most stringent measures to crush any attempt at rebellion within this department."

-Brigadier General George Wright from San Francisco to the War Department, December 10, 1861.

The war in the West was fought undercover. Aside from a single engagement in Arizona and several in New Mexico, uniformed troops of the Blue and the Gray did not meet on the battlefield. But there was a war all the same, a war of rumor and rallies, politics and pettiness.

Quickly the regular Army was called to Eastern battlefields. Volunteer regiments were raised in the West and most of them stayed in the West. To them fell the job of preventing a Confederate takeover and of continuing the unceasing battle against hostile Indians. The latter took the division among the white man as good excuse to increase their depredations.

California is credited with providing 15,725 volunteers for her own units, plus five companies for the Massachusetts Cavalry and eight for the Washington Territory Infantry. Nevada provided 159 men for the California total and 1,158 for her own volunteer units. New Mexico sent an estimated 3,500 men to the war. Arizona Guards were formed under the Confederate occupation and were replaced by Arizona Rangers when the Union reestablished itself in the territory.

Utah remained loyal and militia units guarded the Overland Mail line. Suspecting the motives of the Mormons, however, the government sent a regiment of California Volunteers to guard the route, too-and to keep an eye on Brigham Young.

Colorado recruited two regiments of volunteers, paid them with hastily improvised drafts on the Federal government, and sent one of them off to New Mexico. Here they provided the main force that defeated the Confederates at Glorieta and stemmed the rebel advance into the West. A Federal government on one hand procrastinated in recognizing the financial matter, but on the other hand expressed quick appreciation of the "Pike's Peakers'" strategic victory.

After the Confederates returned to Texas with two-thirds of their forces and equipment left behind, the Western war became one of rumor. But the danger continued to be present. It fell to the Volunteers to see that the peace and the Union were preserved.

Thanks to Dave Davenport for giving us a great site for the Civil War in California. It is

militarymuseum.org/HistoryCW.html. Try it!



From the President,

Summer endings are not supposed to be like this with the southern states under water and our troops under sand. Seems upside down .

Here in the San Joaquin Valley, it was a warm summer without much rain; ideal conditions for growing. Now every child is back in school and soon the Civil War Reenactment will add to their educational process.

Our Round Table will have a display booth during those three days and will need volunteers. I plan to be there every day! Please feel free to join in and let Pattie Spencer know when you are available to help for a couple of hours. It is always fun.

Our summertime was spent by the Board firming up plans for the upcoming Symposium here on Nov 4-6th. This will be most enlightening and entertaining. Please plan to attend.

We haven't forgotten the regular programs which resume Oct. 6th at the Ramada . Read more for details. Hope that your summer was enjoyable, and we look forward to seeing you this Oct. 6th.

Brian Clague
President

FSU Professor Melissa Jordine to take us on a Virtual Tour of Antietam at October 6 Meeting

The official title will be "Antietam: A virtual tour".

A brief biography follows:

Dr. Melissa Jordine is an assistant professor at California State University, Fresno. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she worked under the direction of Dr. Donald S. Detwiler. Her major areas of specialization are Modern European and Military History. Dr. Jordine has presented numerous papers on the German war effort and on the image of Erwin Rommel at conferences and has published encyclopedia articles on Russia, the Cold War, and Germany.

Dr. Jordine has been actively involved with the Fresno Historical Society and the Civil War Re-enactment and gave a presentation on reading battle maps last year. Dr. Jordine is also working with a number of history graduate students on theses relating to the Second World War.



Untimely deaths of Civil War historians Shelby Foote and Brian Pohanka sadden Civil War Enthusiasts

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) learned of the death of a true giant in the historic preservation community - Brian C Pohanka - on June 16. Said CWPT President James Lighthizer, "...Few people have contributed more to keeping the memory of the Civil War alive for the present generations of Americans. He will be greatly missed."

Brian was a familiar face on many Civil War documentaries. He could be found on such programs as Civil War Journal and Ken Burns' landmark The Civil War, among countless others. Brian's commentary was always sharp, insightful, and to the point. He further shared his perspective through countless books and articles on the war. Lighthizer felt that "Brian's most important contribution 'in a life full of great contributions' was in 1987 when he started the battlefield preservation movement known as the CWPT."

Bill Gwalthey, National Park Service director and re-enactor said, "I can knowingly say Brian Pohanka was thorough and thoughtful. He studied everything and cared about justice...." Brian was also chief on-set historian for the filming of 'Gettysburg' in 1992 and as well as the making of 'Cold Mountain.'

On June 28, 2005, novelist and historian Shelby Foote died. He was 88. The native Mississippian gained a sort of celebrity when he lent his gravelly voice to Ken Burns' PBS documentary series 'The Civil War.'

Foote spent 20 years working on his three volume, 3,000 page history of the Civil War. It was little-noticed by the general public before the PBS series featured Foote's genial storytelling style. In 1999 the Modern Library ranked 'The Civil War: A Narrative' as No. 15 on its lists of the 100 best English-language works of the 20th century. Among the writer's other works were 'Stars in Their Courses', about the Gettysburg campaign, and the novels 'Shiloh' and 'Follow Me Down'.

You're needed at Kearney Park Reenactment

Pattie Spencer needs more volunteers to staff our booth for two-hour blocks on Oct 8 and 9.

Sat., Oct. 8th times: 10-noon, noon-2 PM, 2-4 PM 4-6 PM

Sunday, Oct 9th 10-noon, noon-2 PM, and 2-4 PM

Why not make Pattie's day by calling her at 304-8170 to see how and when you can help? It's a great event and volunteers get in free.

SJVCWRT 21st Annual West Coast Conference Registration

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip _____ Phone Number _____
E-Mail _____

Make checks to SJVCWRT, P O Box 5695, Fresno CA 93755 for \$150.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM - Membership year is from January to December
Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
Membership _____ INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY - \$25.00
_____ STUDENT or NEWSLETTER ONLY - \$12.50
*\$5.00 of each membership goes toward CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name _____

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Bring this membership form and your check to our monthly meeting or mail it to our P.O. Box below:

San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 5695
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