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NOTE: New Website address is sjvcwrt2.com

1. SEPT. MEETING SJVCWRT:

*NO CWRT MEETING AT DENNEY'S SEPT. 8TH,

*BARBEQUE AT CLAGUE'S CABIN SEPT 17@ 1:00

"Y'all come!"

SPEAKER WILL BE MEG GROELING (Emerging Civil War author)

"Col. Elmer Ellsworth—1st Union Officer killed in the war"

POT LUCK: Last name A-I bring a side dish, J- P bring salad, Q-Z dessert

Call Brian for RSVP & directions (559-284-4969)

Rock Haven, Cabin #13 Shaver Lake

Directions: Rock Haven is past the village of Shaver, on the left, just past the entrance to The Edison Camp Grounds. If the gate is closed call Clague's for pass code, and directions to their cabin.

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT SEPT. 2016

BY MIKE GREEN

Hello to all of you!

I hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you are ready to get back into the swing of things for this fall and winter.

To start out, we are throwing a curve at you. Our September meeting will NOT be on September 8 as it usually would be but on September 17 at Brian and Linda Clague's home up at Shaver Lake. We usually have a get-together at their beautiful home during the summer months. This year we weren't able to set a firm date so Brian and Linda suggested that we have it on the 17. With this in mind the executive board decided to forgo our usual meeting and designate the party as our meeting. I'm sure that Ron has all of the important information [Time, directions and what the program will be] in his report so I will leave that to him.

The loss of our good friend Walt has been a shock to most of us. He worked so hard at keeping this organization together and his absence is already taken its toll on the organization. We all want to wish Gail and Johnathan all our best and hope that they know that his passing has touched us very much.

Ron and Linda have been very busy this summer working with their lovely daughter who won the title of Ms. California and then competed in the national computation in Los Vegas. She acquitted herself very well in the competition. Again congratulation to the whole family.

See part #6 of this newsletter regarding our Raymond donation.

Speaking about the West Coast Conference, this year it will be held in Costa Mesa on October 28-30, 2016. The conference will cover the period after the war and the theme will be War and Remembrance. If you are interested in attending, let me know and I will get you the information so that you can register.

I hope to see each and every one of you at the Clague's on the 17.

Yours:

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

3. AFTER ACTION REPORT OF MAY 12TH MEETING SJVCWRT

By Ron Vaughan

*14 persons were present for dining and the meeting.

*Mike green spoke of his recent battlefield trips to Franklin and Dalton. He was able to meet up with historian Thomas Cartwright, who has presented at the last two West Coast CWRT Conferences. Cartwright gave him a person tour.

*Gail reported the Bank balance is the same as for April. She and Mike are in the process of setting up a new account for the club.

*Patti reported that Fred Bohmfalk will speak to our Oct. meeting about Grant and Lee.

*A barbeque is planned for 8/27 at the Clague's.

*The new website has been set up, address: sjvcwrt2.com.

*Our speaker was Terry Omman, who gave a PP presentation on the city of Visalia during the Civil War, entitled "When Darkness Gripped Visalia". Many think that California was not involved in the fighting, but bullets frequently flew down the streets of Visalia in the 1860's! The town was founded in 1852, mostly by Southerners. In the 1860 elections, all the City and County offices were won by Southern Democrats. The only Republican to be elected, was for Dog Catcher! There were two newspapers: The Visalia Weekly Delta, edited by Democrat Shannon, and The Visalia Weekly Sun, edited by Republican William Morris. Many Vitriolic editorials were printed. Things came to a head when Shannon killed Morris in a downtown gun fight! There were "Hurrahs for the Confederacy" yelled daily and nightly in the streets. .

A Unionist reported the pro-Confederate activity, causing California Department Commander, General George Wright to send soldiers to bring order to the town, but their arrival only created more disorder. Lt. Col. Evans trekked over Walker Pass, from the Owens Valley, with a squadron of the 2nd California Volunteer Cavalry. Just north of town, they established Camp Babbitt. Later California Volunteers from Fort Miller, Fresno, were sent to Camp Babbitt.

Evans was ordered to arrest Visalia's State Senator—Thomas Baker, an ardent Secessionist. There were several gunfights between soldiers and Southerners. The most serious one occurred in the Fashion Saloon. Soldiers entered the pro-Southern saloon and ordered drinks and cigar, then refused to pay. The bar tender brought out a shot gun and bullets began to fly, and blood flowed! Also, the southern leaning newspaper was burned by some soldiers after it insulted them when it called them "Union Cossacks, with the hearts of rabbits!"

Finally, Col. Evans met with the town leaders and a deal was made: He would control the soldiers, and the towns people would stop

insulting the soldiers. When Lincoln was assassinated, the memorial service was attended by both sides. In 1866. The camp was closed.

Terry's research had uncovered many 1860's photos of Visalia's downtown buildings, where many of the events occurred. These were part of his program, as well as two views of Camp Babbitt.

4. TEMECULA CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE, JUNE 4, 2016:

Linda and I traveled way south to Temecula for this small, but well organized conference. It was organized by an amazing young lady, Sarah Kay Bierly. She is only in her twenties, but has already had a historical fiction novel published, about civilian during the battle of Gettysburg. She is a real history buff and re-enactor. She has her own Civil War blog: "Gazette665, and writes for the "Emerging Civil War" blog, that is a spin off from Ted Savas's publishing series of CW books.

It was a one day conference, featuring seven speakers on a variety of topics on the theme "1861: Marching to War." The most controversial speaker was John Smoley, a Jeff Davis impersonator. He gave a defense for secession, and said that just because the CSA fired upon Ft. Sumter, that did not mean that Lincoln had to go to war. Furthermore he branded Lincoln as the one who was the "traitor", not Davis, as Abe made war upon the States! When Sarah said her stated objective for the con, was to invited attendees "to think and learn, and to be inspired," this was a little more than she bargained for!

Sarah gave an interesting talk, "Awaked Hearts: The Power of Patriotism of Civilians." She drew upon the beginning war experiences of volunteers and their families of the 1st Minnesota and the 2nd Virginia Regiments. She is interested in speaking to our CWRT, despite it being a 6 hour drive away.

Bruce Craver addressed the influence upon music during the war, by the pre-war Richmond Arsenal Band.

Robert Munson listed the numerous incidents (many ever heard of) where Secessionists seized US vessels and forts in the early days of secession.

Meg Groeling spoke about Elmer Ellsworth. She will be speaking to us in September.

Finally, David Dixon spoke about Southerners who were of Unionist sentiments, and the difficulties they suffered. He has written a book about the third address, that followed on that day that Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. Few people are aware of it, as the papers devoted much space to the first two speeches. David has agreed to come to speak to us, perhaps next year.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR:

From The Blue & Gray Laughing

“A soldier in one of the Kentucky Winter camps, during one of the cold nights, says the motto with them is, “United we sleep, divided we freeze.”

6. PRESERVATION NEWS:

General Parker Hills latest project is to get a replica Whitworth Cannon for the Raymond Battlefield.

Our contribution to the Friends of Raymond is moving along. As you remember, we contributed \$5,000.00 from the profits of our West Coast Conference last November. Our money is going to reestablish the historical fence line that was on the field at the time and was a major point of action during the battle.

Our friend General Parker Hills has done extensive archeological work on the field and has discovered where that fence line was located. Our contribution is going for the purchase of Cyprus logs that will be split and placed in the ground in the location of the historical fence. On a stump next to it, will be displayed the commemorative plaque honoring SJVCWRT founding members: Ken & Barbara Moats, and Brian & Linda Clague. General Hills has told me that he has been working at getting the fencing materials and should have the fence up by next spring. When it is completed I will have pictures for you to see.

7. PHOTOS







