



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT DECEMBER 2015

Hello all,

I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are hard at work getting ready for the Christmas Holidays.

It has been quite a month. First my daughter got married. A good time was had by all. Then we had a great West Coast Conference that was held in Tulare. We had about 80 attendees and it seems that all of the participants had a good time. Special thanks must go to Ron and Linda Vaughn for doing so much work to make sure that this program went on. Brian and Linda Clague came down early and helped a great deal both before and after the Conference as well as helping out in the clean up on Saturday Night. Walt came down and did a great job on the registration. My wife Carolyn came over and worked hard on Friday and Saturday and Lisa also did a great job helping out. This event wouldn't have been as successful without their efforts. I want to also recognize the Tulare City Historical Society for hosting us at their wonderful venue. Johnathan's group performed several songs at dinner on Saturday. They were also very good and I want to thank them for their effort in making that evening a special one. All in all it looks like we made about \$5,000.00 from the confer-

ence and it appears that the executive board had decided to make another contribution to the Friends of Raymond. I have been in contact with our friend General Hills and we are looking at possible things that these funds can be used. More information will come in a later report.

Continuing with the theme of an interesting month, my family celebrated Thanksgiving in San Francisco. Again we had a good time. On Saturday I was up at 3 A.M. so that I could catch some flights to Nashville Tennessee. I got there about 2 P.M. central time and had all kinds of fun picking up my rental car. I then drove south to Franklin in the hopes of going over the battlefield but the heavens opened up and the possibility of seeing anything was not possible. Tomorrow I will see about looking at Franklin and then drive over to Stones River and then down to Chattanooga where I will be doing four days each on the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Wish me luck.

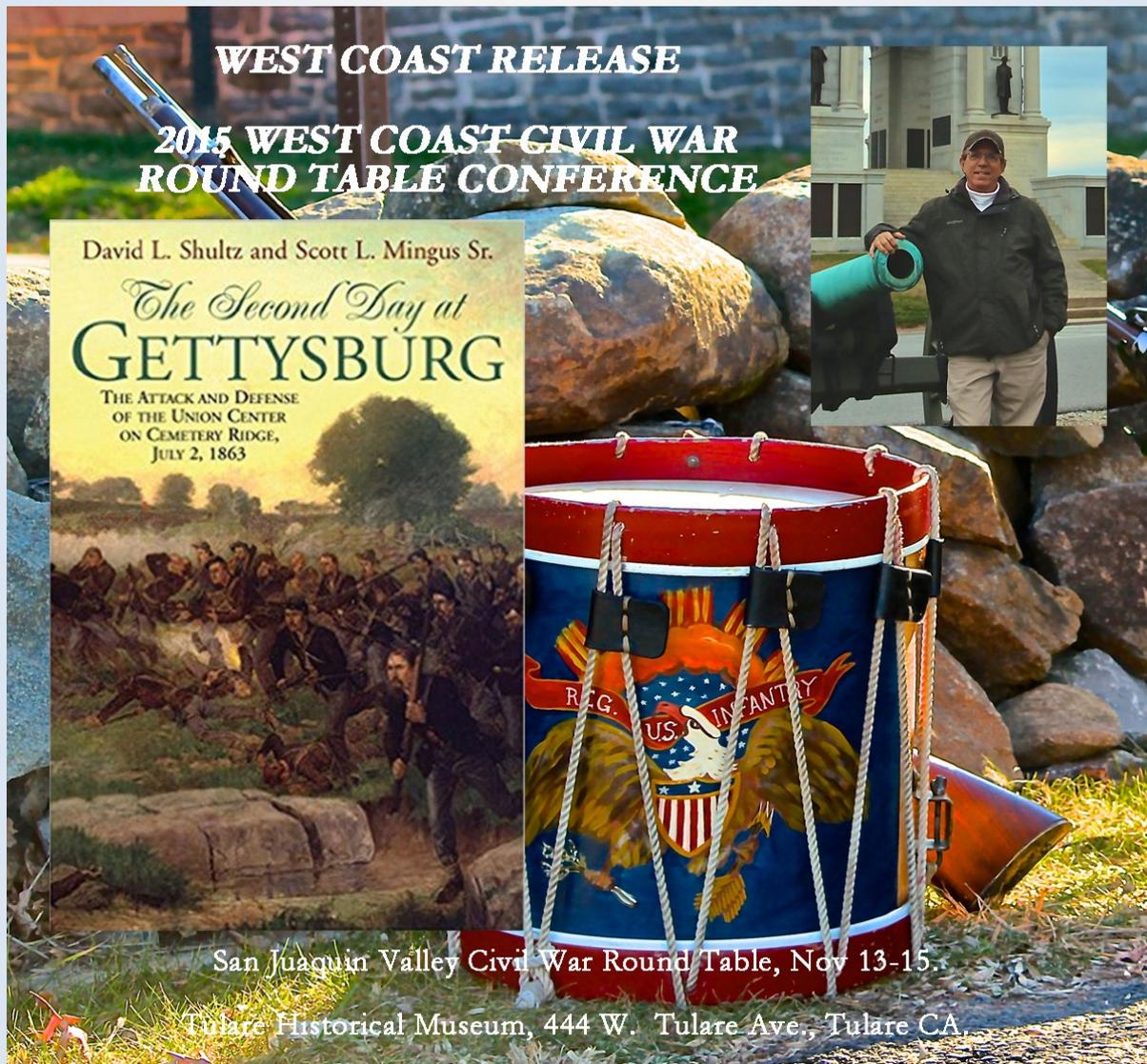
I want to remind you that we will be having elections for offices of the Round Table in January. Remember that you can't run for office or vote in the election unless you have paid your dues for 2016.

Well if I don't see you before January I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy happy New Year.

Yours

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT



Hello Ron,

We took the liberty and sent this proclaiming our new book's release. Being I am a Californian we could not think of a better venue to offer our new product. Our intention is to sell only during designated off hours whereas I will otherwise participate as a visitor who is looking forward to your fine venue of presenters and titles. I have been out of state and am looking forward to rekindling old CW community friendships as well as making new.

If acceptable could you please send me the information (cost) I need to set up one small table.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Best,
David Shultz

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 11/12/15

BY RON VAUGHAN

Ten persons were present for the meeting. We discussed the Kearney Park event and the upcoming conference. Patti reported that we will have Fred Bohmfalk and Tom Lubas speak next year. We will have officer elections at our January meeting. Gayle indicated she would be willing to be Secretary –Treasurer. It was suggested that then I could run for President.

Mike Green presented his talk on Sherman's Carolina Campaign, as a trial run for the conference. He was afraid it was too long, so he hurried through it, and finished in 45 minutes. His pictures of battle sites and the countryside were beautiful.

Mike spoke of Sherman's early pre-war Army life in the Charleston garrison. Sherman learned to appreciate the Southern people and loved to explore the inland swamps and woods. This knowledge would be useful for the future.

Sherman's February raid to Meridian, Miss. Taught him lessons in destroying railroads, and dealing with Confederate guerrillas harassing his line of supply. Sherman also came to appreciate the value of confusing the enemy about his army's objectives. His spread out lines of advance in the march to the sea, caused the Confederates to disperse their forces to unnecessarily defend cities that Sherman did not intend to attack. Sherman repeated these tactics during the Carolinas advance, so that he achieved much, without fighting many battles.

I found it interesting that General Halleck wanted to transport Sherman's Army by ship to Virginia. Perhaps there would have been no Carolina campaign at all! However, Halleck's idea (as with some of his other thoughts) was impractical, due to the number of ships that would have been needed.

The rainy weather that swelled the rivers and swamps, proved to be one of Sherman's main opponents. However, Sherman had a hardworking engineer/pioneer corps to build bridges and corduroy roads. They achieved wonders in crossing places the Confederates thought were impassable.

Bentonville was a three day battle beginning March 19th, 1865. It involved about 60,000 Union troops vs 22,000 Confederates, making it a large battle, but it is almost ignored in the history of the war. Amazon.com offers only 8 books on the subject, compared to so many on other battles. Mike did well to dig up information and visit the battlefields more than once, to take his pictures for the program.

Only three of us bought raffle tickets, so we three all came away winners! The meeting ended at 8:15.

2016 WEST COAST CONFERENCE REPORT:

Our conference was a success. There were 90 persons there at one time or another. Mike will provide financial details, but our profit was about \$5,000. We had many compliments about the speakers and the museum as a venue. The only mishaps were: the Friday night dinner, when the caterers forgot to provide butter or ice tea, and we had not supplied wine, (in order to cut costs); the "CW Jeopardy" game did not fly, as Ted did not bring the game's Power Point on a thumb drive, and I could not open the copy he had sent me; and Wayne Scott did not come to present Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address.

The conference speakers related very well to each other, so that their presentations were inter-connected. Jim Stanbery's opening talk laid the framework for all that followed. Outside of the attack on Fort Fisher, and Lincoln's assassination, all major and minor topics were addressed.

Edward Alexander gave brilliant presentations on the fighting around Petersburg and the final break-through, that historians seldom mention. Micheal Oddinino ably continued the story of Lee's retreat, and surrender at Appomattox.

The conference certainly dispelled the popular media myth that Lee's surrender was the end of the war. There were still some 200,000 Confederate troops in the field. Mike Green spoke of Sherman's Carolina campaign and the Bennett House surrender. Tom Cartwright told of Forrest's fight to defend Selma and final defeat by Wilson's cavalry raid. I told the story of the almost never discussed 1865 campaign against Mobile, Alabama, and the last battle of the war at Palmito Ranch, also, about the bitter enders who preferred exile in Mexico to the humiliation of surrender to the Yankees. Sam Craghead provided closure with the tale of the CSS Shenandoah, which was still sinking Union vessels long after the fighting had ended, and finally sailed back to England, for surrender to the British.

Jerry Russell Award was presented to Ted Savas for his years of efforts toward battlefield preservation, and most of all, his preserving the history through publishing new works on the war.

Johnathan's "Rag-Tag Regiment" band entertained us Saturday night with some CW music and songs.

2016 WEST COAST CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

The 2016 West Coast CWRT Conference will be co-hosted by the Orange County CWRT and the Pasadena CWRT, at the Crowne Plaza Costa Mesa (near Newport Beach), surprisingly on October 28- 30. The cost is \$225 after August 1st, or \$215 from Jan. 1st to July 31st, or \$205 before then. Mail checks payable to "CW Round Table 2016 Conference," to Joann Knowles, 32 Elksford Ave., Irvine, CA 92604, or Paypal: <http://pasadenacwrt.org/conferenceregistration>.

The Topic is "War And Rememberance," with nine speakers booked. Their post war topics include Custer's legacy, General Sickles' Controversy, The James-Younger gang, Veterans lives who immigrated to California, Ted Savas' hunt for lost battlefields, and other topics.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

FROM THE BLUE & GRAY LAUGHING

"Since the late order allowing brief furloughs to two enlisted men and one commissioned officer from each company in the service, a captain in the 28th Georgia Regiment made application for of the leaves for a private of his company, who was in the regimental band. The document went "approved and respectfully forwarded" through the offices of colonel, brigadier general, etc., to General D.H. Hill, who most unmercifully left the the applicant without hope by the final endorsement thereon: 'Shooters furloughed before tooters!'"

Conference pics. Unfortunately, no one seems to have taken any other pics, not even Mike, the relentless photographer!

Ron V

