

ECHOES

Aftermath of Gettysburg

This month's meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will be the last of the year. Ray Bisio will speak on "The Aftermath of Gettysburg." Bisio specializes in Gettysburg having spent six weeks of his summers for the past five years as a VIP (Volunteers-in-Park) at Gettysburg National Military Park doing interpretive walks and talks.

The meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 21 at the Remington restaurant, Clovis and Kings Canyon Avenues. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. Besides a raffle of books and gift certificates, there will be an auction of the second and last print we have by Dale Gallon depicting Chamberlain at Little Round Top.

Reservations may be made by sending checks for \$15 for each dinner to SJVCWRT, P.O. Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755. Bisio's talk will feature an overview of the three days of battle with a strong emphasis on retrieval, burial and medical aspects, including surgical techniques, the formation of Letterman Hospital and a verbal walk through the cemetery.

VIPs are representatives of the Park System and may elect to serve at a park of their choice in various capacities, such as answering the phone, doing research, repairing artifacts, as photographers, as docents or giving presentations.

Bisio is a presenter. Unlike Licensed Battlefield Guides, they are not paid. Their time and work is strictly on a volunteer basis. Presenters do, however, have an oral interview and take an oral and written test. They then prepare a paper, which must be accurate and entertaining, and present it to a committee of judges.

Bisio was awarded the coveted 1,000 hour VIP pin. Besides his service at the park, he is an avid re-enactor and has organized a group called, "Drums of Gettysburg" which are on call at area colleges to present music of the Civil War. When he is not involved in Civil War activities, Bisio is a special education teacher at Barstow (Calif.) High School, and also teaches oral communication at Barstow Community College.



The Battle At Monocacy

By Carol Berry

In the early morning hours of July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early moved his troops toward Washington, D.C., along the Georgetown Pike (present-day Route 355) near Frederick, Maryland. A mile from Monocacy Junction, just south of Frederick, Early's troops met with resistance from a squad of 8th Illinois Cavalry.

Monocacy Junction, a thriving railroad center, consisted of a railroad station, telegraph office, warehouses, and several homes. Along the rail lines at Monocacy Junction, Union General Lew Wallace placed his skirmishers. Supported by artillery and the main body of Union infantry on the south side of the Monocacy River, these skirmishers protected the bridge on the road to Washington, D.C.

Early ordered General John McCausland and his cavalry to look for a river crossing so that a flank attack could be mounted rather than a direct assault on the Federal troops at the bridge. About a mile downstream, McCausland found the Worthington-McKinney Ford.

General John B. Gordon's division used the ford to cross the Monocacy River, and at 3 p.m. began a fierce battle with the Federals around the Thomas house. At 4:30 p.m., General Wallace, seeing that his troops were about to be overwhelmed, ordered a retreat towards Baltimore. The Battle of Monocacy was over. Early would wait until the

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Battle at Monocacy (Cont.)

next day to continue his march on Washington, thus giving the capital time to prepare for his attack.

Today a three-stop auto tour affords the visitor a view of the Monocacy National Battlefield. The first stop is along Route 355 where monuments to both the Confederacy and the Maryland Centennial are located. The Confederates placed their artillery at this spot and opened fire on Monocacy Junction.

Beyond the monuments, in the distance, the Best farm can be seen. Throughout the Civil War, both Confederate and Union troops bivouacked at the Best farm. It was on the grounds of the farm in 1862 that General Lee's Special Order No. 191 was found by two Indiana soldiers. That Special Order, outlining the Confederate Army's movements in the Maryland Campaign, was given to General McClellan, who -- but that's another story.

The second tour stop takes you across the railroad bridge to the 14th New Jersey Monument. This location is where some 350 men of the 1st Maryland Potomac Home Brigade, and detachments of the 106th New York, 9th New York Heavy Artillery (troops only, no artillery) and 10th Vermont were placed as skirmishers. If you look under the bridge, you can see a "y" formed by the railroad tracks -- the site of Monocacy Junction.

The third and final stop on the tour is at the junction of Georgetown Pike (present day Araby Church Road) and Baker Valley Road, where monuments to

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table officers for 1996 are:



President	Bill Head
Vice President	Barbara Moats
Secretary	Carol Berry
Treasurer	Wayne Bowen

Other board members are Linda Clague, membership; Verne Cole, newsletter editor; Rick Kubiak, historian; and the immediate past presidents, John Taylor and Charles Jorgensen.

Change of address? Call Verne Cole, 435-8410 or Wayne Bowen, 291-4885.

Notes From the Vice President

President Bill Head is out of the country, so did not contribute his usual column, President's Corner. Vice President Barbara Moats, however, offered these notes.

The SJVCWRT program year is fast coming to a close with a fascinating program by Ray Bisio (Nov. 21) on "the jewel of national military parks" -- Gettysburg. There will be a raffle of the second and last of our Dale Gallon prints depicting Chamberlain at Little Round Top and of books of value and gift certificates.

A highlight of the meeting will be the annual election of officers. The nominating committee has proposed these names: president, Barbara Moats; vice president, Rick Kubiak; secretary, Carol Berry; and treasurer, Wayne Bowen. Bob Wash, Ken Moats and Verne Cole. Nominations may be made from the floor.

The Discussion Group on the Shenandoah Valley wound up its series of nine meetings with a tasteful potluck dinner. Participants felt they had learned a lot in a very congenial atmosphere. In terms of time, it was an economical way to cover the many engagements and battles that took place in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia from 1862 to 1864. Our Round Table has a lot of potential. See you at the meeting on the 21st.

Pennsylvania and Vermont units are located. The place where these two roads meet was the Union's left flank. It is from this location that you can see the Thomas house, where such fierce fighting took place in the afternoon phase of the battle.

The Vermont monument, erected in 1915, reads: THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY THE STATE OF VERMONT TO DESIGNATE THE POSITION OF THE TENTH VERMONT INFANTRY DURING THE BATTLE FOUGHT HERE ON THE NINTH DAY OF JULY 1864 TO SAVE WASHINGTON. "AND WE SAVED IT." SEVEN COMPANIES OCCUPIED THE WASHINGTON PIKE WHILE THREE COMPANIES OCCUPIED THE BUCKEYSTOWN ROAD OPPOSITE THE THOMAS HOUSE.

The Monocacy National Battlefield visitor's center is located in the historic Gambrell Mill, just off Route 355, where an excellent electric map gives an overview of the fight. While the battlefield is undeveloped and under agricultural lease, the auto tour gives ample opportunity to see how and where the conflict, sometimes referred to as The Battle That Saved Washington, occurred.

Source: The Monocacy Battlefield National Park Auto Tour guide

The U.S. Civil War Center

By Barbara Moats

When Ken (Moats) returned from a recent Civil War Conference in Mississippi, he brought back the inaugural newsletter of the fledgling Civil War Center, located at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was my first exposure to this concept -- an exciting one -- which I want to share. The information in this article is from that newsletter.

The center was the brainchild of David Madden, one of the conference speakers. About six and a half years ago, upon completion of his fifth Civil War novel, Madden mused that his 10-year research could have been condensed to one year, if there was a computerized reference bank of Civil War information accessible by computer. He estimated that only about 25 percent of Civil War material was cataloged at all, and only about 10 percent of it is on computer databases.

Madden contacted the Chancellor of LSU, James H. Wharton, who saw the need for such a center, and a planning committee was created. Substantial initial funding was secured and the idea became a reality.

The three main objectives of the center are: (1) to create a database that includes information on all Civil War materials -- public and private holdings of books, imprints, letters, diaries, manuscripts, maps, photographs and art work -- throughout the nation, (2) to inspire, encourage and promote fresh studies of the Civil War by men and women in every profession and occupation as well as every academic discipline through conferences, conventions, exhibits, book publications, and magazines, (3) to help achieve a deep and abiding spiritual and philosophical reconciliation between the North and the South through an understanding seated in intellect, enhanced by cultivated emotion and venturesome imagination.

Madden's vision is that northerners and southerners can find common ground, rather than perpetuating divisiveness.

The "heart and brain" of the center is the World Wide Web site. Materials for the database were substantially increased by T. Michael Parrish of Austin, Texas, who donated the database he compiled for his book *Confederate Imprints*, a bibliography of Southern publications from secession to surrender. Madden then launched appeals all over the country, "requesting information on private, local, and regional Civil War collections."



Troops on bivouac

The object of the Civil War Center is not to house collections but to be a center for the dissemination of information. The exception to this is the collection of books written for young people about the Civil War. Madden said, "No such collection exists anywhere in the nation. The role of children in the Civil War and of books that shaped the attitudes about the war is an area of study which has been neglected. . . . We're only collecting children's books because nobody else is doing it."

In the article, *Worldwide Information Access*, Rebecca Bailey lists options available through the Web page: users can call up existing databases, including the National Park Service's database of vital statistics on Civil War soldiers, images and documents. A service for Civil War re-enactors to access and advertise event information is envisioned. The aim is to direct people to existing collections, conference and resources. The hope is that the collection will be complete by 2011 -- the first year of the Civil War sesquicentennial celebration.

Names of members on the National Advisory Board are ones easily identifiable by most Civil War buffs, such as, Ed Bearss, Ken Burns, William C. Davis, Shelby Foote and Ted Turner. There is more to the newsletter -- a large, special, inaugural edition. If you are interested, copies can be obtained from

The United States Civil War Center
Louisiana State University
Raphael Semmes Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5111.

The address for the center's Web Page is:
[HTTP://www.CWC.LSU.EDU](http://www.CWC.LSU.EDU). E-mail to the center can be sent to the webmaster@www.cwc.lsu.edu

Sharpshooters' Ridge

(Excerpted from November issue, The Civil War Round Table Digest)

Sharpshooters' Ridge, along with the ruins of Pigeon's Ranch and four additional properties at the heart of the Glorieta Pass Battlefield, site in 1862 of one of the West's most important Civil War battles, are now part of Pecos National Historic Park, near Santa Fe, N.M.

The Civil War Battlefield Campaign of The Conservation Fund, headed by Frances Kennedy, purchased the five properties as additions to the park, and announced earlier this month that the fifth property has now been transferred; the other four had been transferred during the past five years.

The Fund bought the properties from 1990 to 1996. The purchases were made possible by the Fund's Southwest Revolving Fund, established by grants from the Hoblitzelle and Summerlee Foundations of Dallas, by a loan from the National Park Service, and by a grant from Civil War Coin money.

War In Indian Territory

The 1997 CHI Conference about "Rebels 'n Yankees 'n Indians: Civil War In Indian Territory," will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the first weekend in April. The speaker list, host hotel arrangements, etc., will be announced later. Mark your calendar and plan to be there.

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

This will be the last newsletter of the year since there is no meeting scheduled for December. Therefore, the editor of this newsletter and the entire board of directors wants to wish each and every one a happy holiday season.

The first regular meeting of the new year will be a Share and Tell luncheon meeting on Jan 31 at the Downtown Club, 2120 Kern Street. Members are invited to bring and explain souvenirs, or to provide a sketch of a person or event of the Civil War.

The first meeting of the new board will be Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Moats' 4780 N. Delno, beginning at 4 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

Coffee and the Civil War, an informal get-together, is being held beginning at 9 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at Le Croissant, First and Nees, Fresno. You are invited to come and discuss the latest book you've read, trip you've taken or your favorite topic of the Civil War.

Dues for the new year are payable at any time. They are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families. Mail to SJVCWRT, P.O. Box 5695, Fresno, 93755.

