



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE. NOVEMBER 2011

Hello Friends:

It's hard to believe that another month has come and gone but it sure has.

A lot of things have happened since my last president's report. The most important was the fact that we almost lost our good friend Walt Schulze. Walt suffered a heart attack during the week of our last meeting and on the meeting day. It didn't look all that good for him to pull through. Well, thank God' Walt proved how tough he is and came through his ordeal with flying colors. He had to undergo an operation, but when last I saw him he was looking good and carrying on. We all are ecstatic that this situation came to a great conclusion. We have some others of our membership who are having medical problems. Enough to say that we will have them in our thoughts and in our prayers.

We had a wonderful program last month with Brian Clague talking on the beginnings of the medical corps. He went into the problems faced by the Union before, during, and after the battle of Manassas. The fact that the nation had never seen the likes of the number of wounded men as well as the types of wounds showed that the nation was woefully unprepared for the type of battle that would be fought during the Civil War. As usual the slides that he presented were outstanding. Thank you again Brian for giving us such an outstanding program.

The Fresno re enactment took place on the weekend of October 21 through the 23. Thanks to our Vice President Patty Spenser, we had a booth at the event. I want to personally thank the members of our organization for helping out at our booth. Without their effort we would have had a much more

difficult time. In particular I want to personally thank Patty for organizing and running the event, Evan Jones for providing several valuable pieces of art for the raffle, Ron Vaughn for his donation of a Grant statue and Mrs. Kuykendall for all the work she did with her dolls and with helping out with getting our message across, and all the other members who gave of their time to help out. Again thank you.

We had a good contingent of our members participating in the re enactment in one form or another. Our members who participated as members of the army were Neil Kuykendall, Ron Vaughn, Jonathon Schulze, and I was told that David Davenport was also participating. Dr. Brian Clague helped with the presentation about medicine during the war. Also present were our good friends President Davis and President Lincoln and his entourage. I was happy to see this good participation from our Round Table.

I had just come back from being out of town so I was only able to attend on Sunday. When I got there, I found that the placement of our booth event was totally unacceptable. We were required to have our booth at least ten yards back from the street. From what I could ascertain by walking around the event, other groups that were at the re enactment had their booths along the street where the attendees would have ready access to their booths. As far as I could see we were not the only ones that were placed at a great disadvantage; the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughter of the Union were lumped in with us. They were on both sides of us and we were at the back end of a cul-de-sac. This made it exceedingly difficult to interact with the public. One had to almost walk out to the street and pull people into our area. All three groups asked to be moved back to the street but were refused that opportunity. When one of the groups did move closer to the street, they were told to move back to their original position.

We paid \$100.00 to have a booth at this event. We have participated in the re enactment so that we could get exposure for the Round Table as well as possibly make a few dollars for the Round Table with our raffle. We were hoping to get well over \$500.00 from the sales of raffle tickets as well as get a few new members to the organization. I am sad to relate that we only made \$230.00 from the sale of raffle tickets and got no new members for the organization. I can personally tell you that it wasn't from lack of trying. I spent the entire day on Sunday working to get people to come into our area. It was always a balancing act because you didn't want to take anything away from the other groups that were stuck in the same situation. Again I want to thank Patty and Mrs. Kuykendall for spending the time and effort working at promoting the Round Table.

It is my intent to contact the organizer of the re enactment and question why we were put at such a disadvantage. If I can't get a reasonable explanation from them, I will be asking the executive board to consider whether we should participate in this event again. It is my understanding that we have been with them since the beginning, and it would be a shame to sever our ties with them, but we just can't throw our money and the time and labor of our members away. We have much more important things to do with our money, our time, and our efforts. Yes, I am NOT happy with what went on at the re enactment.

If you haven't signed up for the West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference, the time is running out. The conference will be held on the weekend of November 11 through 13 in Sacramento. The topic is the first year of the Civil War. You can find even more information about the conference on the web page of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table. I hope to see you at the conference.

We continue working toward our Town Hall meeting that will take place on December 8. As you recall, our December speaker, General Parker Hills, will be making his presentation, General Ulysses S. Grant: A Military Genius or Just Plain Lucky?. He will be introduced by Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson, one of the major speakers in Ken Burns's documentary, The National Parks: America's Best Idea.

After General Hills finishes his power point presentation, he will join with Mr. Johnson for a discussion of the importance of protecting and expanding the public land for the benefit of all the people.

There will NOT be a meal along with this program. It will be held in the Clovis Veterans' Memorial Hall in Old Town Clovis, at the corner of 4th and Hughes. The lecture will start at 7:00 P.M. and the Town Hall Meeting will start at 8:00 P.M. For non Round Table members the cost will be \$10.00. Round Table members will be able to attend for free but I do remind you that the dues for the 2012 year will be due on that night so bring your check books.

All of this activity is designed to raise more money for the Friends of Raymond Mississippi project. The Round Table has already donated a considerable sum toward this battle field but more is needed to add to this outstanding public nonprofit group that has done so much to purchase land and make this battle field one of the jewels in the world of public nonprofit parks.

The crowning glory about the Raymond Battle Field Park is its adherence to the historical accuracy of the artillery that was on the field at the time of the battle. The park has set up the Union as well as the Confederate Artillery position and numbers of cannon in the exact spot where they were at the time of the battle. More than that, they have reproduced the caliber of each gun that was there at the time. I know of no other battlefield that has produced this configuration. This is what makes this battle field so special. All of this has happened because of the hard work of our guest speaker, General Parker Hills. He has shepherded this project since its inception.

Our goal is to raise enough money to sponsor an additional cannon to the cannon line at Raymond. The last time we made our gift to The Friends of Raymond, one of the things that we did was sponsor cannon in the name of our good friend Robert Quist.

This time we will be working to sponsor cannon in the name of Cameron Owen, a young man that had served on the cannon crew at the Vicksburg Military Park for five years before joining the United States Army. Cameron became an Army Ranger and served his country through numerous combat operations in Iraq. His untimely death was a tragedy. We feel that it is only right to honor him and the country that he served by putting him on the line at Raymond. We will be raffling off several prints and a picture on canvas that has been donated by Keith Rocco [thanks to the work of Evan Jones]. Alex Fabros has committed to auction off a weekend on his sail boat that is moored in the San Francisco Bay. Brian and Linda Clague have generously committed \$1,000.00 toward this project. Other individuals in the Round Table have indicated that they will also make contributions to this cause.

Headstone for Union Veteran

Two dozen re-enactors and guests participated in the dedication of headstones for Sgt. James P. Barker of the 74th Illinois Infantry and his wife Eliza Snyder Barker at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery in Fresno, California, on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Both were buried without gravemarkers in 1908.

Ron Vaughn, a resident of Tulare and Sergeant of the 6th Iowa Infantry of the Civil War Re-enactment Society, provided an Invocation. A biography of Sgt. Barker was then read by David Davenport of Fresno, a Private in the 79th New York Infantry of the ACWA. Neil Kuykendall of the 79th New York and Michael Gatley of the 2nd Maryland, both of the ACWA, and Shawn Archer, Billy Patton, David Duek, and Eric Vaughn all of the the CWRS, then paired up to fire three volleys of two rifles each in succession in honor of Sgt. Barker. The ceremony was completed with Taps played by Andy Waits of the 6th Iowa as echoed by Steve Bolt of the 6th Iowa.

The biography of Sgt. Barker was condensed from the extensive history of the Barkers and their children researched and written by Dr. Davenport, a retired history professor. The longer version is scheduled to appear in the November, 2011, issue of Ash Tree Echoes, the tri-annual journal of the Fresno County Genealogical Society. It is the fourth in a series about Union Veterans who settled in Fresno in the late 19th century. About 300 are known to have been buried at Mountain View.

Since Sgt. Barker never fully recovered from the wound he received during the war readers may find his story, and that of the 74th Illinois Infantry, of great interest. The short version is printed below.

"We are gathered at Mountain View Cemetery in Fresno , California , to honor the memory of Sgt. James P. Barker of the 74th Illinois Infantry and his wife Eliza.

"James P. Barker was born in Norwich , Ontario , Canada on September 2, 1827. On May 20, 1848, he married Eliza Snyder at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Dundas , Ontario , Canada . James and Eliza had four children, Charles, Ted, Lucinda, and Edwin.

"The Barkers left Canada in 1856, shortly after the birth of their daughter Lucinda, and settled at Pecatonica , Illinois , a village in Winnebago County on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Tracks were being laid just south of the Wisconsin border and would reach the Mississippi River by 1860. James was a blacksmith, despite being only 5 foot 6 inches tall and never weighing more than 125 pounds .

"On August 5, 1862, James enlisted as a Sergeant in the 74th Illinois Infantry a 3-year regiment organized and mustered in at Rockford , Illinois a month later. He and his comrades in arms were sent to war almost immediately. On September 30 they arrived at Louisville , Kentucky , which was threatened by the Confederate Army led by Braxton Bragg. The Rebels withdrew after their defeat at Perryville and the 74th Illinois then marched southward to Nashville , Tennessee , where it joined the Army of the Cumberland commanded by William Rosecrans. He ordered an advance to Murfreesboro and there, at Stone's River, the 74th fought Confederate forces amidst snow and sleet on the last day of December, 1862. Losses among the 74th were 8 killed, 35 wounded, and 42 missing or captured. On the second day of the battle, January 2, 1863, James and his comrades skirmished on line of battle all day and Union forces regained much of what had been lost two days earlier.

"The 74th Illinois Infantry then went into winter quarters until driving the Rebels from Tullahoma and Chattanooga in June and September, respectively. On November 25, 1863, James and his comrades assaulted Confederate forces on Missionary Ridge and lost 14 killed, 39 wounded and 6 missing, almost 60% of the 340 men who fought that day. Despite these losses the 74th Illinois was then deployed in the advance on Atlanta in 1864. At Kennesaw Mountain , on June 27, 1864, the 201 men fit for duty suffered 12 dead, 38 wounded, and

13 missing. James was among the 38 wounded. A bullet struck his seventh rib and exited through his right arm pit.

"He was treated at Hospital in Nashville , then Jeffersonville , Indiana ; and finally Mound City , Illinois . For two years fragments of his shattered rib worked their way through his skin. The muscle damage and scar tissue was so extensive that he could not raise his right arm fully. Nevertheless, he was returned to duty in March, 1865, and discharged at the conclusion of the war in June 1865. He was immediately pensioned and began receiving \$6 a month. He remained in poor health for the remainder of his life.

"James returned to Illinois and became a naturalized citizen of the United States on March 28, 1867. He and his family moved to Elmdale , Kansas in 1873. His physician there, Dr. William Hibben of Emporia , determined that James was permanently disabled as a result of the damage inflicted by the gun shot wound he sustained at Kenesaw Mountain . The resulting scar tissue had left him unable to raise his arm and wield a blacksmith's hammer. He also suffered from rheumatism brought about by standing in the frigid waters of Stone's River, Tennessee on January 1, 1863. An affidavit by a comrade reported that as the 74th Illinois was repositioned for battle on the 2nd, the men stood in the icy river for several hours and then at nightfall were prohibited fires to warm themselves and dry their clothes for three days due to the presence of the enemy. During this time James "was taken with rheumatism" and made "laim" and unable to walk normally.

"After leaving Kansas about 1881 and farming at DeSmet , South Dakota for more than a decade, James and Eliza moved to Fresno , California , where their daughter Lucinda and her husband Frank Snyder had taken up residence in 1895. James and Eliza Barker made their home at 337 San Pablo in a residential district north of downtown.

"Despite the change in climate James Barker's health did not improve. In October 1905 he was admitted to the National Home of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers near Malibu , in Los Angeles County , California . He was suffering from both rheumatism and heart disease. Furthermore, the doctors determined that the tissue surrounding his ribs was so thickened that his right lung was not working properly. His right arm and shoulder were also said to be "lame." James was then said to be totally disabled, unable to perform any manual labor, and completely dependent on a monthly Pension raised in 1907 to \$20 per month.

"He was discharged from the "Old Soldier's Home" on January 11, 1907, and he and Eliza returned to Fresno. She passed away unexpectedly fourteen months later on March 17, 1908 from the effects of "heart failure and influenza." James died two weeks later on April 2, 1908 from "senility."

"According to the records of Atlanta Post no. 92 of the Grand Army of the Republic to which James belonged Eliza and James were buried side by side in the GAR plot. The gravesites of neither were marked for 103 years, but the grave of William Clark, who was buried less than a year later beside James, was marked almost immediately. This made it possible to determine exactly where James and Eliza were placed. Headstones were ordered for Eliza by Cheryl Walker, whose daughter is married to a direct descendent of James and Eliza, and for James by me and Elaine Tosh, manager of the Mountain View Cemetery . Today we reveal these markers.

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR SJVCWRT MEETING 10/13/11

By Ron Vaughan

Twenty four persons were present for this meeting, double the number of the last meeting. They must have figured that the smoke had cleared from the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and it was now safe to return!

The attendees included new comer Steve Richardson, and two CSUF coeds, Veronica and Chole, who have become interested in the CW.

We were shocked and saddened to learn that Walt Schulze had a serious heart attack. We all signed a card for him.

Patty rounded up some volunteers for the Kearney Park Re-enactment.

Henry Howison described his trip with Mike Green to some battlefields, including Fredricksburg, where he was able to visit his ancestral home, where Lee had breakfast before the battle.

Wayne Scott also reported on his 4,000 mile trip, appearing as Lincoln at several locations.

We were reminded of the upcoming West Coast CWRT Conference in Sacramento, Nov 11th-13th.

Mike reported on our Dec. meeting at the Clovis Veterans Hall, Featuring General Parker-Hill, speaking about "U.S. Grant—Military Genius or Just Plain Lucky." We hope to attract the public and raise \$5,000 for the Friends of Raymond.

Finally, we got to our featured speaker, Dr. Brian Clague, who spoke on the topic, of how the battle of Bull Run affected medical considerations. General McDowell was uncertain about the readiness of the Union Army, but politicians forced him to act. The medical department was especially unready. Dr. William King was appointed Medial Director, only shortly before the campaign began. There were shortages of surgeons, medical supplies, and ambulances. To compound the situation, most of the supplies and ambulances were left behind. A field hospital and a few aid stations were set up, but they were ineffective, in caring for the large number of wounded.

After the defeat, McDowell was replaced by McClellan, and the Medical director was also replaced by Dr. Charles Tupler. He tackled several problems: the lack of competence of the surgeons, with a review board; re-organized the ambulance corps; insisted on vaccination of the troops; and arranged for Quinine for troops.

Another improvement came from the ladies who formed the U.S. Sanitary Commission. This group offered an advisory role to the Army, and lobbied for improved medical care and sanitation. They inspected the troops, medical facilities, and investigated problems. The USSC collected supplies and by the end of the war, they had donated \$25 million worth of supplies. Brian noted that the entire budget of the US Army for medical services was \$35 million.

Important Reminders

Election of officers will soon be upon us. Anyone who is interested in being part of the Executive Board of SJVCWRT needs to contact Mike Green no later than the December meeting.

Membership dues is due and payable by the start of the December meeting. Dues is \$35.00 per family.

A big huzzah and tip of the kepi to all that volunteered with the booth at Civil War Revisited. We did not do as well for raffle sales this time around due to the the fact we wuz robbed by Historical Society in placing of our booth this year.

Thanks Again,

Pattie Spencer

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