

BUGLE CALL ECHOES

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
NOVEMBER 2003 - VOL 11 ISSUE 9



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again to all. It was certainly nice to see all of the new faces and meet all of the new members at our meeting last month. Welcome and we hope you enjoy our fine group. Also, it was great to have Bob Wash and Kathy Rehart join us again.

Our October speaker was Dr Allen Carden who spoke on "Lincoln and the Women in his life". It was an excellent presentation supplemented by video tape. We extend our thanks to Dr Carden and his wife Denice for joining us. This was a repeat appearance for Dr Carden and we hope to have him speak again in the future. We are also very pleased that he decided to join our organization.

The October fund raiser was again a big success. Thanks to Don Troiani, Civil War Preservation Trust, and our members for the donated items. All of the money that we raise goes for preservation of Civil War sites. Our total monies raised during the history of our organization is now over \$32000. We are trying to preserve land that, once lost to development, is gone forever. We are proud of our efforts.

This month we can look forward to another excellent speaker, Keith Poulter, editor of the magazine *North and South*. He will be speaking on Civil War literature. I look forward to seeing all of you once again at this month's meeting.

Tom



New Members:

Janie Rodriguez-Roe - Fresno, CA
Allen & Denice Carden - Fresno, CA

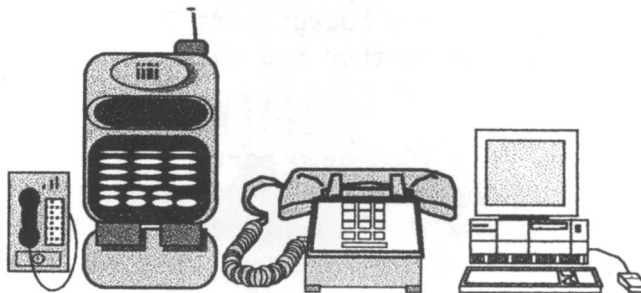
NOVEMBER 20TH MEETING:

KEITH POULTER WILL SPEAK ON
"Modern Civil War Literature"

Ramada Inn - Shaw at Highway 41 - No-host
Social Hour 6PM - Dinner 7PM (\$16)
Program at 8PM

Keith was born in London during World War II, which gave him an early start on his interest in military history. He worked for British Intelligence for 5 years, then a welfare agency. Keith received a degree in political science and joined the faculty of Exeter University (UK) followed by several teaching posts. In 1977 he the established his own business publishing board games and magazines. This was essentially an international operation with sales primarily in the U.S. Keith came to this country for six months and when the board game business was wiped out by computer games he started *North & South*, a new magazine of Civil War conflict. It quickly became one of the leading magazines of the conflict. Keith's personal interest in the Civil War was triggered by reading Bruce Catton's *Grant Moves South*, some 14 years ago. He has an extensive library and wide ranging interests. He has spoken to us before and you can count on a lively and informative talk.

FOR RESERVATIONS



Please let us know if you are coming as we need to get a count for the hotel.

KEN/BARB 229-3654 bhmfresno@comcast.net

By Ron Vaughan

Thirty persons were present for our October Fund Raiser for preservation. Dr. Allen Carden spoke on a slightly different topic than we expected: The influence of women on the development of Abraham Lincoln. His thesis was that his relationship with women helped shape him for greatness. The woman that influences most men the most, is their mother, but this was not the case for Lincoln, as his mom, Nancy, died in 1816, when he was only 7 years old. He was raised by neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Johnson. New mom, Sarah, appeared to have had a very positive influence on him, as she treated him like her own son. However, the focus of Dr. Carden's talk was on Abe's love life. His first love was Ann Rutledge, a lovely young woman, whom he met in New Salem. Abe was very awkward and insecure about his looks. She was engaged to a man who had promised to return for her, but never did. Because she was "spoken for", Abe felt safe in approaching her. They developed a close "friendship", and the rumor was that she was the only woman he ever really loved. Unfortunately, she died in 1832. For a long time, Lincoln was deeply depressed over this loss. Dealing with the loss of two loved ones probably helped him to become more sensitive. This may be a reason for his generosity in granting pardon requests and the anguish he suffered over the casualties of his soldiers.

Eventually, he began courting Mary Owens (she is the "other Mary"). They agreed to marry, but the relationship was awkward, they came from different backgrounds (he poor, she rich), and neither had their heart in it, and they broke up.

In 1841, he met Mary Todd at a party. He told her "I have been wanting to dance with you in the worst way". She confided that he did indeed dance in the worst way. Despite this, she fell for him. Like the previous Mary, they had different backgrounds, but they had politics in common and she did most of the talking. She predicted that he would

someday be President, and she wanted to be the wife of the President. (She was the first one to be called "First Lady". They married in 1842. They both loved each other, but it was a turbulent marriage. There was conflict over her overspending (ie. She left a collection of 300 pairs un-used gloves in the White House.) Another problem was that they could no longer be sexually intimate after 1857, due to a gynecological problem. Despite this he was always loyal to her, and would not think of separation (nor secession).

Mary, not only thought that Lincoln could be President, but she had a plan. She hired "supporters" to cheer when he was nominated at the Republican Convention. She was his chief political advisor in the pre-war years.

It was said he learned frugality and patience from his relationship with his wife. From all his relationships, he learned tolerance of different perspectives. His Cabinet had men of quite differing views, even including Seward who had opposed him politically. He never liked to speak extemporaneously, and sometimes got into trouble when he did. He learned to choose his words carefully and use a script for public speeches.

Dr. Carden certainly had an interesting thesis, and the relationships in a person's life, dysfunctional or not, can profoundly affect the life of an individual.

Coming

Soon

DECEMBER 6TH

Trip to Fresno Metropolitan Museum to see "Becoming a Nation" We'll meet at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum at 3:00 Adults \$7, Seniors \$4, Museum Members free. Call 229-3654 if you need a ride or would like to carpool. Reservations have been made at the Basque Restaurant/Garden Room (On Maroa just south of Shields) at 5:00 for dinner (on your own from the menu). Call Ken/Barbara at the number above for more info.

REPORT ON THE WEST COAST CIVIL WAR
ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE,
NOV 7-9, 2003, IN WOODLAND HILLS

Ron Vaughan

This was a great conference! Those in attendance from our roundtable were Carole Berry, Gary Trindle, Wayne & Bonnie Bowen (some of our long distance members), myself and wife Linda. The San Gabriel R.T. were the hosts. There were about 100 attendees and \$900 was raised for Battlefield Preservation via the raffles. They had 3 tables covered with many prize books; and you put your ticket in a bucket for the table whose prizes interested you. If you won, you went to that table and picked out your prize. This was much better than winning a prize at random. They also used a bucket for each of the five Troiani and Kunstler prints that were raffled. By the way, Carole and Gary won a large print of General Forrest and staff, as well as several books.

The conference not only featured the usual lectures and meals, but also musical entertainment. The Saturday evening dinner guests were treated to a performance by The Cottonwood String Band, who performed free, as a contribution to preservation. Friday night we were entertained by The Band Of The California Battalion, authentically uniformed musicians led by Dr. Gary Scott, of Long Beach City College. These are professional quality musicians, who also sang some of the songs, and provided historical information about them as well. This would be an excellent group for the Fresno Historical Society to bring to the next Kearney Park. The band website is: <http://civilwarband.lbcc.edu>.

The conference theme was 1863 as a turning point in the war. The featured speakers were Terry Winschel, who gave excellent presentations on Vicksburg and the Mississippi troops at Gettysburg; and Herman Hattaway, who gave an interesting talk on the problems faced by Davis and the Confederate Government. Of course Jerry Ssell was there and gave a moving

presentation on the death of Stonewall. Don McCue, of the Lincoln Shrine Museum, gave a couple of presentations, accompanied with power point slides, about the Emancipation Proclamation. He also showed pictures of some of the museum's items, including the sword donated by Tim Johnson's estate. Also, it was an amazing coincidence that he showed a photo of some US Colored Troops, which was the same photo aired Saturday night on the TV show "The District". Part of the show had focused on an African American police officer's possible ancestor as an officer in the 54th Mass. Many authorities have said that there were no Black officers, but the photo clearly shows one, this was confirmed by Mr. McCue. (FOOTNOTE: I saw myself in the TV show for all of one second, after spending 13 hours on the set!)

In my opinion, the highlight of the conference was a presentation by Wayne Sherman on The California Battalion. His talk was based upon meticulous research and a crate of old papers that once belonged to a battalion veteran, Charles Meyers Jenkins. Mr. Sherman portrayed himself as Corporal Jenkins giving the welcoming speech at the 1912 convention of the Grand Army of the Republic in Los Angeles. His appearance was identical to the photo of Cpl Jenkins, down to wearing the same medals and ribbons. His dramatic presentation was accompanied by slides of the 1912 convention and many wartime photos related to the history of the battalion.

There were many other interesting offerings at the conference, Next year the Conference will be in Modesto - don't miss it.



NEED ANOTHER ELECTION?

WE THOUGHT NOT. ALL THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS WERE ELECTED LAST YEAR TO 2004 - YOU HAVE 12 MONTHS TO CAMPAIGN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2003

President	Tom Carr	Dave Davenport	Director
Vice President	Brian Clague	Patricia Spencer	Director
Ken Moats	Treasurer	Bob Quist	Director
Barbara Moats	Secretary	Gloria Carter	Alternate
Charles Jorgensen	Newsletter	Mike Carter	Past President
Lydia Flores	Publicity		

MEMBERSHIP FORM MEMBERSHIP YEAR - JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table
Membership -Individual/Family \$25 -----\$12.50 Student or Newsletter only
\$5 OF EACH MEMBERSHIP GOES TOWARD CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Any Specific area of Civil War interest? _____

Bring this membership form and your check to a meeting or mail to:

SJVCWRT
PO BOX 5695
FRESNO, CA 93755

