

BUGLE CALL ECHOES



Vol. 9 No. 4, April 2001

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.

April Program

Lee Merideth is the founder, former president and former newsletter editor of the South Bay Civil War Round Table. He is also editor and compiler of the indispensable series of *Guides to Civil War Periodicals*. Venturing recently into other historical fields, Lee has published *1912 Facts About the Titanic* and is planning a book on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, where he guides tours.

Lee's talk to our round table will cover many aspects of railroading during the Civil War, with emphasis on the important strategic uses of it. He believes that not enough study has been made regarding the place of railroads in the war.

★★★★

President's Corner

Many of you know our round table has pledged \$500 to the Lincoln Bust project. The bust now sits in the lobby of the Fresno County School District Office and is a wonderful piece. We should be proud to be a part of such a worthwhile benefit to our schools and to the community. Our \$500 donation allows us the honor of having the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table name engraved on the base of the statue.

At the March meeting we took up a collection from those attending to assist the club in meeting its obligation to the project. Thank you for your generosity. For those of you who would like to make individual donations to further assist in this effort, please see Gloria Carter at the April meeting or mail your donation to our P.O. box and indicate on your check you would like it applied to the Lincoln fund.

Other items of interest include the purchase by our round table of Gary Gallagher's 24-hour

April 2001 Meeting

The meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table will be held on Thursday, April 26, at the Ramada Inn, Shaw Avenue and Highway 41 in Fresno.

A no-host social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m.

Please send your check for \$15 (\$10 for students under 25) to cover the cost of the meal to Gloria Carter, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755, or call 559/322-9474 to advise her you will be attending the meeting.

lecture series on the war that I mentioned in last month's newsletter. The board is wrestling with how to implement a reference library that could be used by the membership. Any suggestions would be appreciated. The tapes will be available at this month's meeting, at which time we can discuss how they can be checked out for those interested in hearing this outstanding series.

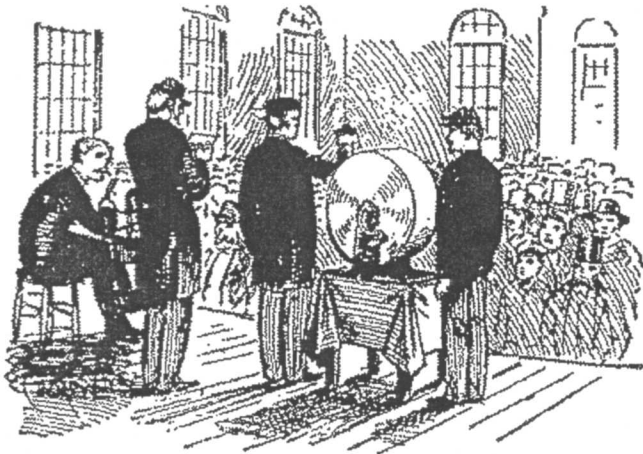
Mike Carter

The New York Draft Riots, July 1863

by Rick Kubiak

It was exactly 9 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 1863, at the Draft Office for the 9th District of New York City. The Provost Marshal made a sign to his chief clerk to turn a crank that set a drum spinning. When the drum stopped, another clerk, who was blindfolded, reached into the mouth of the drum and pulled out a slip of paper and read the name and address of a citizen from the 9th District—who became the first person in the history of the United States to have ever been drafted into the Army.

The National Conscription Act had been signed on March 3, 1863, by the president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Desperate necessity had caused the need for a draft. There was an ever-increasing manpower crisis. Nine-month and other short-term enlistments had expired. Many soldiers had deserted, been killed in battle, or had succumbed to disease. By the beginning of 1863 war weariness and the grim realities of army life had discouraged further volunteering. The men most likely to enlist for patriotic reasons or adventure were already in the Army. The Enrollment Act of 1863 was designed mainly as a device to stimulate volunteering by the use of the threat of being drafted. As a threat it worked, but with a great deal of inefficiency, corruption, and what was



Drafting

viewed as injustice. It consequently became one of the most disruptive issues of the Civil War.

That hot Saturday morning several hundred names were drawn and announced without any special incident. At noon the Provost Marshal closed the drawing for the day. This peaceful beginning had been a relief to those who knew of recent warnings that if the draft was enforced there would be violence.

On Sunday the newspapers published the names of the men drafted into military service and thousands of men faced the fear that their names could be called next. Many of these men were Irish immigrants who had fled to the United States during the potato famines of the 1850s and had no desire to fight in a war. A great

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number of these men lived in unrelieved misery, in squalid tenements, or disease-infected shanties, and worked in low paying jobs as dock workers and longshoremen. Miserable as many were, anything seemed better than "marching off to war and getting their heads blown off in combat." They called it, "rich man's war and a poor man's fight." This sentiment developed from a special clause in the Conscription Act which permitted exemption from service for any man who paid the sum of \$300 to the Provost Marshal or furnished a substitute at the time he was called for military service. The \$300 for an exemption from that draft (he could be called for a later draft) or the price of a substitute was no hardship for a wealthy man but was a considerable fortune for the average working man who was paid a dollar and a half for a nine-hour working day.

Competing with the Irish immigrants for that dollar and a half a day job were free Negroes. Southern sympathizers called Copperheads (named by loyal Unionists after the deadly snake) were very active in New York City, telling the Irish that this was a war "to free the niggers," and describing a picture of a city swarming with freed slaves who would glut the labor market and take jobs from the whites. Earning a meager living became a struggle for survival. Vicious fights were common on the docks where Irish and African-Americans vied for work. Poor white laborers resented bitterly the fact that their rivals were not even subject to the draft and displayed this resentment in forms of violence towards them.

As Sunday evening approached agitated crowds gathered in the streets of the poorer neighborhoods. There was heavy drinking and the crowd was becoming mean, with curses against the draft and African-Americans. In Irving Westein's book, *July, 1863: The Incredible Story of the Bloody New York City Draft Riots*, he echoes the words of the wives of the drunken men in the fast forming mob. "Don't go off like damned sheep. Stand and fight!" they cried. 'Drafted men get no bounty. How are we to put bread on the table with you in the army?' they shrieked at drink-befuddled

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men. 'Damn it! Are you going to let your wives and young 'uns starve while the niggers stay home and grow fat?' they argued...And through the increasing turmoil one hatred persisted. The 'niggers' were to blame for everything. Get rid of the 'niggers' and the lousy government that made the draft. The rich wanted the war. Down with the draft...drunken men glared with reddened eyes and lurched about in helpless fury. The day was ending in ugliness."

On Sunday hundreds of angry men had vowed to attack the draft offices the next morning when they opened. The following day they made good on their threat, setting off four days of escalating mob violence that terrorized the city. The mobs indulged in indiscriminate looting and destruction and also targeted their hostility towards the draft offices and other federal property. They poured into one such office at 3rd Avenue and 46th Street, smashing windows and furniture and setting it afire. They attempted to seize the 2nd Avenue Armory but were stopped by a detachment of New York City militia. As the mob increased the militia was reinforced by regular troops. As night came on fires lit up the New York City sky.

That Monday evening a detachment of veterans in the Invalid Corps, while courageously resisting the mob, became routed and scattered. The Colored Orphan Asylum at Lexington and 43rd Street was gutted and burned. Fortunately the children were allowed to leave before the fire burned the building to the ground.

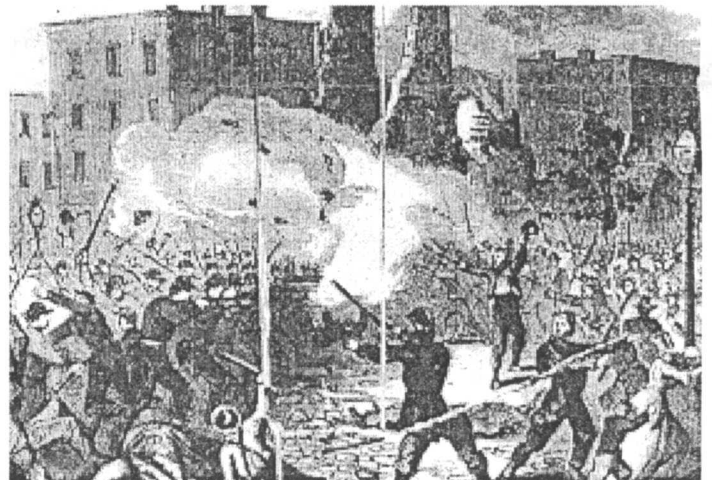
The rioters tried to attack the offices of Republican newspapers and managed to burn out the ground floor of the *New York Tribune* while howling for Horace Greeley's blood. Many rioters hated Greeley, the sharp-penned editor of the *Tribune*. He had condemned the "Copperheads," describing them as traitors. Greeley had also written in support of the draft and the necessity of the Conscription Act. In *July 1863*, Werstein relates the mob's antagonism towards Greeley. "People started yelling, 'Let the niggers wait! Let's get Greeley! On to the *Tribune*! Hang Greeley!' Hanging appealed to the rioters—the 'niggers' or

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Greeley—it didn't matter as long as there was to be hanging. They cheered heartily at the idea. Hundreds started to sing to the tune of *John Brown's Body*: 'We'll hang old Greeley to a sour apple tree, and send him straight to Hell!'" Fortunately for Greeley, he was warned of the approaching mob and fled down the back stairs of the *Tribune* Building to hide in the restaurant of Windust's Hotel on Ann Street until the rioters were dispersed.

Not so fortunate were many of the blacks that were pursued by the mob. Werstein describes the mob's sentiments. "This was going to be the biggest lynching party in history. Before they were through, every lamppost would be decorated with a 'nigger.'"

Werstein tells of an elderly black man named William returning from the bakery where he had bought a loaf of bread when he was accosted by whites. "Before he could move a band of white men rushed at him. They struck him with clubs, and the loaf of bread fell to the ground where it was trampled into pulp. Feebly, William tried to fight back, but they struck him down again and stomped on him with heavy boots. They threw a rope around him and dragged his body in the gutter. They hung him to a tree at the entrance of Saint John's Cemetery and gibbering women came to slash at his corpse with knives. They splashed kerosene on his clothes and set him afire."



No black person was safe. Rioters beat anyone they could catch regardless of age or sex. At least six African-Americans were known to have

been lynched. Others had their property smashed and their homes set ablaze. The reign of terror against African-Americans continued unabated. In panic hundreds fled to Brooklyn, Westchester and to New Jersey. African-American boarding houses were burned down. Tenements were gutted by men who brought carts to carry off the furniture. The *New York Herald* estimated that on Tuesday, the second day of the riots, 150 black people had been killed or badly beaten.

Rioters also looted the homes of several prominent Republicans and abolitionists, while shouting, "Down with the rich." Well dressed men were attacked on the street and many prosperous whites joined the blacks in the exodus out of New York City.

On Tuesday, July 14, many shops closed and business came to a standstill. The mob came up against bands of troops and police attempting to patrol the streets. Untrained in riot control, New York's police fought the mobs with great courage but with only limited success. Army officers had gathered together only a few hundred troops to squelch the angry mob. It wasn't until the War Department sent several regiments of seasoned veterans from Pennsylvania (they had been fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg) to New York that law and order was restored.

On July 15 and 16, soldiers fired artillery shells and minie balls into the mass of angry rioters. By July 17, an uneasy peace had returned to the damaged city. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sent a total of 20,000 troops to New York City to enforce the calm. The draft, temporarily suspended, was once again resumed on August 19, 1863.

In less than four days the worst riots in America had passed into history. One hundred and five persons were known to have been killed and more than a million dollars' worth of property had been destroyed.

Allan Nevins, in his book, *The War for the Union: The Organized War 1863-1864*,

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summed up the efforts of the bitter riots by saying, "New York bore on its shield the stain of the ugliest turbulence that ever disgraced the republic. It was another evidence of the growing fury of the age of hate, of the power of anger, violence, and blood-lust...to seize upon and degrade a people."

Sources used:

July, 1863: The Incredible Story of the Bloody New York City Draft Riots, by Irving Werstein; *The American Conflict 1862-1865 Volume II*, by Horace Greeley; *The War for the Union: The Organized War 1863-1864*, by Allan Nevins; *Battle Cry of Freedom, The Civil War Era*, by James M. McPherson.

BLUE AND GREY BALL

The Sons of Confederate Veterans and The Daughters of the Confederacy are extending a cordial invitation to the first Blue and Grey Ball to be held on Saturday, May 19th (7:00 – 11:00 pm), at the home of Brian and Linda Clague, 850 E. Hampton Way, Fresno. The event will include dinner, live music and will also feature poetry by Ebony Verses.

Tickets to the ball are \$10 per person and attendance will be limited to 200 people. Music of the period will be featured and those interested in brushing up on their dance skills will be relieved to know that they may attend dance lessons at the Cynthia Merrill Dance Studio on Blackstone. A total of 4 weekly dance lessons will be conducted beginning Thursday, April 5th from 7:30 – 8:30 pm and the price of each lesson will be \$5.

The sponsoring organizations will also be raffling off a hand-made quilt with raffle tickets at \$2 each. The groups are soliciting donations for the table center pieces which are to depict a "State" theme.

For those wishing to attend or participate in any of these activities, contact Marilyn Swanson at 559-292-0468. Period dress for the ball is welcome, but not required. Marilyn can also provide those who are interested in creating their own costumes with information on available patterns and materials.

It is the hope that this event will inspire the public's imagination and lay the ground work to make this an annual event in the Fresno community.



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Endangered Battlefields

The following list of the 10 most endangered battlefields is taken from an article in *Hallowed Ground*, the magazine of the Civil War Preservation Trust:

1. **Allatoona Pass, Georgia:** It is vital to save as much land as possible in Georgia because of the pressures of urban sprawl, particularly in the Atlanta area.
2. **Mansfield, Louisiana:** It is threatened by an adjacent lignite mining operation and residential sprawl.
3. **Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi.**
4. **Raymond, Mississippi:** The site is threatened by development pressure along Highway 18 emanating from nearby Jackson.
5. **Fort Fisher, North Carolina:** The fort is being encroached upon by wave action due to changing currents along the Atlantic coast.
6. **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:** Of particular concern are parcels near the proposed location of the new battlefield visitors center, which is expected to attract the same sorts of chain restaurants and stores to the Baltimore Pike corridor that currently line Steinwehr Avenue.
7. **Stones River, Tennessee:** Expansion and development of a highway interchange at the battlefield is expected to bring commercial development to one of the few pristine areas remaining in the fastest-growing county in Tennessee.
8. **Loudoun Valley Sites (Aldie, Upperville and Middleburg), Virginia:** Recent expansion of the Dulles high-tech corridor is increasing the pressure to turn these pristine sites into subdivisions. The influx of commuters into the region is also putting pressure on local officials to expand the road network, which would have a devastating impact on the scene of these battles, fought principally along these same roads.

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9. **The Wilderness, Virginia:** Intense residential and commercial sprawl along the Orange Turnpike threatens this site.
10. **Harpers Ferry, Virginia:** The site is the focus of intense residential and commercial development; portions of the battlefield are in the process of being platted for a 188-home subdivision while other parcels are currently zoned industrial.

Classes of Conflict

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON, October 28, 1904

MEMORANDUM

Explanation of terms used to designate the various classes of conflicts between military forces during the civil war.

1. **Battle.** Usually applied to a prolonged general engagement between large bodies of troops; i.e., large as compared with other bodies of troops in the same locality at the same time.
2. **Engagement.** Specially applied to encounters of less magnitude than a battle where a considerable part of a larger body, or an independent command approximating the ordinary proportions of a division or corps, was engaged.

(In a general sense the term "engagement" is often applied in military parlance to any conflict of arms, great or small, between contending forces.)
3. **Action.** Used only when the event was not decidedly a battle or engagement, according to the definitions given in items 1 and 2, ante, but was of greater magnitude than a skirmish as described in the item following.
4. **Skirmish.** Any encounter between small parties, picket firing, or the exchange of shots along the advanced lines of the opposing armies.
5. **Assault.** An attack on a fortified work, without regard to numbers engaged, i.e., where a whole army or only fractional portions thereof participated in the operation.

Preservation

Acquisition of Historic Property near Antietam Battlefield

The Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc. (SHAF) announced November 20, 2000, that it would acquire eight acres south of Sharpsburg that includes the site of a famous Union signal station, an area adjacent to Union General George B. McClellan's headquarters. The property is significant because photographer Alexander Gardner produced some of his most famous photographs at these two locations. Gardner accompanied President Abraham Lincoln's entourage to Sharpsburg during the first week of October, 1862, and he made these photographs while Lincoln visited with McClellan and his staff at his headquarters.

"The most famous Lincoln-McClellan photograph occurred at the Grove Farm," SHAF president and co-founder Tom Clemens commented. "But most of the 'Lincoln visit' photographs, which include the signal station, were taken adjacent to McClellan's headquarters. That's why we purchased the property."

Clemens credits SHAF co-founder and first president Dennis E. Frye with making the discovery. "Dennis solved the mystery," reported Clemens. "No one knew where McClellan moved his headquarters after the battle, but Dennis pinpointed the location." Frye explained the discovery was purely coincidental. "I was in the National Archives searching for war claims on my property, which was General Burnside's headquarters. Amazingly, in the same claim, McClellan's headquarters and the signal station location were identified."

SHAF acquired the eight acres for \$60,000. The site had been subdivided for a building lot.

Frye and Clemens, both professional historians, are proud of SHAF's continuing preservation accomplishments. Established in 1986, the organization has either acquired itself or helped the State of Maryland protect over 4,000 acres surrounding the Antietam Battlefield. "No other local Civil War organization has achieved such success," noted Clemens. SHAF will immediately launch a fund-raising campaign to pay for the property. Donations may be sent to SHAF, P.O. Box 550, Sharpsburg, MD 21782. For further information, visit the SHAF web site at www.shafonline.org.

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Farewell Address

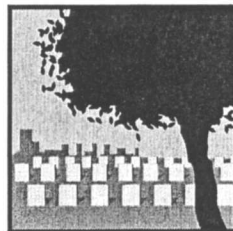
After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them. But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from a consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you His blessings and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

Robert E. Lee, 1865



NOTICE FROM JERRY RUSSELL

The American Civil War Round Table, **United Kingdom**, is pleased to announce that at their annual luncheon and auction held in London on the 7 April, the sum of **\$2,000.00** was raised for battlefield preservation.

This amount is to be presented to **The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society** and will be used for an interpretation sign at Kelley's Battery located at Bell's Bend, 9 miles west of Nashville, the site of six actions between Union ships and four Confederate artillery pieces in early December 1864.

Jerry asks: What have we done lately?

Social Secretary

The SJVCWRT now has a person we would like you to contact if any member or their families have died, been hospitalized, injured or any other situation our club should recognize. Please let Jean Summers know.

She can be reached by telephone at 559/348-0217 or by e-mail: JonJeanSummers@webtv.net

Francis Barlow

Francis Channing Barlow was born October 19, 1834, in Brooklyn New York, but moved with his family to Brookline, Massachusetts, when still a child. He attended Harvard University, graduating first in his class in 1855, and studied law in New York.

When the Civil War broke out, Barlow joined the 61st New York in 1862 as Lieutenant Colonel. Promoted to Brigadier General after the battle of Antietam, where he was wounded, he commanded a division of the 11th Corps at Gettysburg. At a hill now known as Barlow's Knoll (where a statue of Barlow is placed), he was again wounded. In a letter to his mother dated July 7, 1863, Barlow writes the details of his wounding:

"A force came up against our front in line of battle with supports in the rear. We ought to have held the place easily, for I had my entire force at the very point where the attack was made. But the enemies skirmishers had hardly attacked us before my men began to run. No fight at all was made.

"Finding that they were going I started to get a head of them to try to rally them and form another line in the rear. Before I could turn my horse I was shot in the left side about half way between the arm pit and the head of the thigh bone. I dismounted and tried to walk off the field. Everybody was then running to the rear and the enemy were approaching rapidly. One man took hold of one shoulder and another of the other side to help me. One of them was soon shot and fell. I then got a spent ball in my back which has made quite a bruise. Soon I got too faint to go any further and lay down.

"I lay in the midst of the fire some five minutes as the enemy were firing at our running men. I did not expect to get out alive. A ball went through my hat as I lay on the ground and another just grazed the

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forefinger of my right hand. Finally the enemy came up and were very kind, Major Pitzera, Staff officer of Gen. Early had me carried into the woods and placed on a bed of leaves. They put some water by me and then went on to the front again."



Francis Channing Barlow

Barlow survived his Gettysburg wounds and returned to the Army of the Potomac in the Spring of 1864 as commander of the First Division of the Second Corps. At the conclusion of the war, Barlow was in command of the Second Division, Second Corps.

After the Civil War Barlow resumed the practice of law in New York City. He had lost his wife Arrabella to disease during the war but later married a sister of Robert Gould Shaw. Barlow served as Secretary of State of New York, United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York and as Attorney General of New York. After his stint with public service, he returned to the law. He died January 11, 1896, in New York City.

The two things Barlow is probably best known for is 1) the story of how he was succored at Gettysburg by CSA General John Gordon after being wounded (this is debated as to whether it actually occurred), and 2) serving as the model for the Union officer in Winslow Homer's painting, "Prisoners from the Front."

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2001

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 25, 2001	Membership	<i>Share and Tell</i>
February 22, 2001	Don McCue	<i>Forced Into Glory: Lincoln's White Dream</i>
March 29, 2001	Dr. Rebecca Steine	<i>Varina Davis and Mary Todd Lincoln</i>
April 26, 2001	Lee Merideth	<i>Civil War Railroads</i>
May 31, 2001	Panel Discussion: Carter, O'Neal, Ritchey	<i>Causes of War</i>
June 30, 2001 (note date change: Saturday picnic)	Rick Kubiak	<i>The Common Soldier</i>
July 26, 2001	Evan Jones	<i>Tennessee 1864, A Grave or a Free Home?</i>
August 30, 2001	Elaine Herman	<i>Yeoman in Farragut's Fleet</i>
September 27, 2001	Bill Head	<i>Civil War Fiction</i>
October 25, 2001	Annual Fund Raiser: Jim Stanbery	TBA
November 29, 2001	Chuck Baley	<i>An Evening with Dr. Meux</i>
December 9, 2001	Christmas Get Together	

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please begin/renew my membership in the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. My membership category is checked below:

_____ Individual \$25 _____ Family \$35 _____ \$10 Student or Newsletter

Name _____

Address _____

Clip this membership form and send it with your check to the **SJVCWRT, PO Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755**. The membership year is from January to December. Five dollars of each membership goes towards preservation.