



# Bugle Call Echoes

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**Volume 16 Number 8**

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**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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## *From the President's Desk:*

*Dear member;*

*We are starting our winter season with several talks which should be of interest. Our October speaker may be changed. More on that later. The Board has met several times to keep the schedule full and to work on the conference. See postings on the web for the latest. Keep friends in mind as you prepare for the Sept. dinner meeting, and offer to bring a friend. Our membership needs some additional faces.*

*Brian Clague*

*P. S. Contact Bryce Kuykendall if you are planning to attend our September Dinner on September 25th. His number is 787-3632 or you can RSVP by dropping him an e-mail at bryce.kuykendall@gmail.com.*

## **Round Table Booth Needs Volunteers on Oct. 18 & 19th at the Civil War Revisited at Fresno Kearney Park**

Our SJVCWRT booth will need volunteers during the Civil War Reenactment next month. If we all take a two hour slot or shift no one will be burdened and it is a great opportunity to get in free for all the activities and action.

When is the best time for you to help out? Once you determine the best time contact Pattie Spencer at 304-8170 and get on her master list. She will then make sure you get volunteer tickets for that day.

Saturday, October 18th

10AM - Noon  
Noon - 02PM  
02PM - 04PM  
04PM - 06PM

Sunday, October 19th

10AM - Noon  
Noon - 02PM  
02PM - 04PM

If Pattie doesn't hear from you she will be forced to give you the midnight to 08AM shift. Thanks!



**See our website SJVCWRT.org  
for up-to-date information  
and registration for the West  
Coast Civil War Round Table  
Conference in Clovis on  
November 7th, 8th, and 9th**

## **Remaining 2008 SJVCWRT MEETINGS**

- Sept. 25th - Brad Schall - The Battle of Five Forks
- October 18th & 19th: Kearney Park Civil War Revisited
- October 30th: Dennis Kohlmann - JEB Stuart at Gettysburg
- November 7-9: 24th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference at the Clovis Memorial Building at 6th and Hughes in Clovis, CA
- Saturday, December 6th: Annual Christmas party.



## Civil War Reenactors Wanted for Casting

Hello and Greetings,

My name is Jason and I work with Rich King Casting based in Los Angeles, California. We are casting for the #1 show on Friday nights called NUMBERS. We are seeking Civil War Actors with their own uniforms. There is specialty pay.

Your organization seems absolutely perfect for this opportunity. Please contact us so we can give you the information needed if any members of your troupe would like to be a part of this. You can contact us at 323-993-0186. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jason  
Rich King Casting  
323-993-0186

## CW Humor from "Blue & Gray Laughing"

A soldier's letter included this tale:

"One night I was stopped by a sentinel, whom I recognized as Private P---, though he did not recognize me. I was asked for the countersign and replied, 'Friend with a bottle.'

The reply was, 'Advance bottle and draw stopper.'"

## Phyllis Mann Tells of Hurricane Ike Experiences

17 September 2008

I miss the Round Table. I was in California Sept. 4-16, stayed at my timeshare at Avila Beach for a week, and had a brief visit in Fresno. That's all the traveling I'll be doing this year; won't be making it to the November conference. I hope it will be well attended and go smoothly.

Both my home and that of my son were spared damage in Hurricane Ike. One of my trees went down, but that's all, and it has been replanted. I hope it survives. My son spent Saturday boarding up windows at the high rise building where he works because the hurricane had blown out the glass. The building which houses my daughter-in-law's office was quite severely damaged. She wasn't allowed to enter until late today, when she went in and retrieved the records she needed so that she could get out a payroll for her employees.

My son picked me up at the airport yesterday and as we drove through Houston to Katy we saw many buildings with tarps on the roofs covering damage, trees and billboards ruined, etc. We also saw caravans of utility repair trucks coming in from other areas to help get power restored. Guess they're pretty busy folks these days! There were long lines of vehicles at service stations trying to buy gas. School is canceled in Katy until next week. Jeff took me to a grocery store before he brought me home. Milk was almost entirely gone and there were many shelves empty, as people had stocked up immediately prior to the storm, and trucks couldn't get in to deliver more.

My community of Katy fared pretty well, but other nearby communities were not so fortunate, especially Houston. Large areas of that city will be without power for some time. Food distribution centers are set up in various areas there, and warm meals are being given out to people in styrofoam containers so that they can take them home and eat there. Some of the local tv stations have had no programming other than information about the situation since well before the storm hit.

If your travels bring you this way I'd like to have you visit me. I hope that the November conference goes well.

Warm regards,  
"Phyllis Mann" phyllis\_in\_texas@yahoo.com

## 2009 National Civil War Association Winter Conference in Benicia

**The National Civil War Association  
In partnership with  
The Benicia Historical Museum**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again the NCWA is please to present our Winter Quarters Conference event for 2009. The coming conference will once again be held at the historic Camel Barns in Benicia California. Please join us February 27 through March 1st as we hear presentations by some of the hobby's most recognizable names. We are once again pleased to have Les Jensen, Juanita Leish, Nick Sekela and Mark Tackitt with us again this year along with all our other very special guest lecturers. We are also all very excited to bring several new presenters to our conference offering this year including, Kevin O'Beirne, Darilyn Barret, and Elizabeth Ontis.

Registration for the 2009 event has now opened and the registration papers are all available at [www.ncwa.org](http://www.ncwa.org). The rates are as follows:

Pre-registration: August 1st - Dec 1st \$40.00 First 100 pre-registered guests are invited to a buffet dinner Friday evening at 7 PM and address by keynote speaker, noted historian John Martini

Late registration: From December 1st \$50.00

Student Registration: with valid student ID \$20.00

Walk on Registration: \$55.00 for both days or \$30.00 per day

Add \$10.00 to any registration fee to receive a copy of all conference handouts and materials. Materials will be available for pickup at check-in.

Choice of t-shirt or conference Polo available for order at time of registration for an additional \$20.00.

We encourage you all to keep informed about the upcoming event by checking [www.ncwa.org](http://www.ncwa.org) often.

Jen Roger  
Jreb63@aol.com

# Conference Speakers Books on Review

**From Winchester to Cedar Creek: the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864** by Jeffry D. Wert. Stackpole Books, 1997.

"Virginia's Shenandoah Valley was a crucial avenue for Confederate armies intending to invade Northern states during the Civil War. Running southwest to northeast, it "pointed, like a giant's lance, at the Union's heart, Washington, D.C.," writes Jeffry Wert. It was also "the granary of the Confederacy," supplying the food for much of Virginia. Both sides long understood its strategic importance, but not until the fall of 1864 did Union troops led by Napoleon-sized cavalry General Phil Sheridan (5'3", 120 lbs.) finally seize it for good. He defeated Confederate General Jubal Early at four key battles that autumn.

In addition to a narrative of the campaign (featuring dozens of characters, including General George Custer and future president Rutherford B. Hayes), this book is a study of command. Both Sheridan and Early were capable military leaders, though each had flaws. Sheridan tended to make mistakes before battles, Early during them. Wert considers Early the better general, but admits that few could match the real-time decision-making and leadership skills of Sheridan once the bullets started flying: "When Little Phil rode onto the battlefield, he entered his element."

Early was a bold fighter, but lacked the skills necessary to make up for his disadvantage in manpower. At Cedar Creek, the climactic battle of the 1864 Shenandoah campaign, Early "executed a masterful offensive against a numerically superior opponent, only to watch it result in ruin." With more Confederate troops on the scene, history might have been different. Wert relates the facts of what actually happened with his customary clarity and insightful analysis".

--by John J. Miller of Amazon.com

**The Cause of All My Disasters: Jubal A. Early and the Undisciplined Valley Cavalry**

by Robert K. Krick in Gary Gallagher's Struggle for the Shenandoah: Essays on the 1864 Valley Campaign. The Kent State University Press (1991). 137 pp. 5 maps.

"Robert Krick needs no introduction for the seasoned Civil War reader. The man is an expert on the Army of Northern Virginia, especially Jackson's Second Corps. In this interesting piece Krick explores the shortcomings of the Valley Cavalry and Early's unsuccessful attempts to use them as an effective fighting force. Cavalry had been invented 2,500 years earlier in Assyria, and it died with the Confederacy. Early and D.H. Hill were two men who particularly disliked the mounted arm. Unfortunately for Early, Krick writes, the topography of the Valley made Cavalry even more important than usual. Early's faults, mainly those described by Wert in an earlier essay, are covered. Despite these flaws, Krick says, "Early displayed considerable skill under dreadful conditions in the 1864 Valley Campaign".

The flaws of the other part of this equation, the Valley Campaign, are discussed next. The Confederate remount system was beginning to affect the way Rebel troopers fought. Each man brought his own horse when he entered the service. If it died, he was paid and he alone was responsible for finding a replacement mount. Krick points out that due to the extreme shortage of horses by 1864 many Confederate troopers did not want to risk their horses in battle. Capturing Federal mounts likewise became a priority. The homes of the Valley Cavalry were behind enemy lines and thus were subject to depredations by the northern troops in the Valley. These men had both the motivation and mobility to leave the front to help their families at home.

Drinking was also a problem for these men. Krick asserts that the one thing cavalry needed most was discipline, especially as they evolved into mounted infantry late in the war. And as the rest of the essay points out, discipline was the one thing the Valley Cavalry lacked more than anything. This went back to Turner Ashby, the brilliant though flawed commander of Jackson's cavalry during the 1862 Valley Campaign.

The leaders of the Cavalry left something to be desired as well. Out of the eight men who commanded parts of the Cavalry during the Campaign, Krick maintains that only Williams C. Wickham and Lunsford L. Lomax performed competently. The others were a mix of poor disciplinarians and tacticians.

**Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 6** by Peter Cozzens, 2007, The Univ. of Illinois Press, 632 pages, paper, \$24.95

First-hand accounts from both commanders and enlisted men of important leaders and major battles of the Civil War. The first four volumes of Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, published in the late nineteenth century, became the best-selling and most frequently cited works ever published on the Civil War. Volume 6 (like Volume 5), assembled by the acclaimed military historian Peter Cozzens, carries on the tradition of its namesake, offering a dazzling new collection of articles written by military and civilian leaders, North and South, on a broad array of war-related topics.

Sifting carefully through reports from newspapers, magazines, personal memoirs, and letters, Peter Cozzens's Volume 6 brings readers more of the best first-person accounts of marches, encampments, skirmishes, and full-blown battles, as seen by participants on both sides of the conflict. Alongside the experiences of lower-ranking officers and enlisted men are accounts from key personalities including General John Gibbon, General John C. Lee, and seven prominent generals from both sides offering views on "why the Confederacy failed." This volume includes 120 illustrations, including 16 previously uncollected maps of battlefields, troop movements, and fortifications.

"Sure to interest readers as much as the original series and is highly recommended for public as well as academic libraries."--Library Journal

"Sizzling with essays, testimonies, and writings about individuals and events that affected conflict outcomes of the Civil War. . . . This rich compilation was gathered from original articles published immediately following the war. Far from dry, these are lively and obscure accounts."--Foreword Magazine

Peter Cozzens is a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State and the author or editor of many books on the Civil War, including *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War: Volume 5*; *General John Pope: A Life for the Nation*; and the trilogy *No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stones River*, *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga*, and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga*.

## Dr. Davenport recommends

Just a note to announce the publication of this Civil War Novel, **Duty and Honor**. The Civil War Courier's book review tagged it as 'an easy and fun' read. Members can obtain copies through Amazon.com.

Check out the reaction of other readers at [www.civilwarnovels.com](http://www.civilwarnovels.com). Click on the Barnes & Nobel icon at the bottom of the first page and go to Reader Views.

A Civil War historian Robert L. Mills has a review part of which is shown on the front page as well. He calls **Duty and Honor** a 'great read'.

*Robert K. Krick Review by Gary Gallagher continued from page 3:*

### **The Cause of All My Disasters: Jubal A. Early and the Undisciplined Valley Cavalry**

As the essay moves on, Krick discusses the poor battlefield performances of the Valley Cavalry. In most instances the cavalry simply performed poorly, but in some cases Early set them up for failure (Third Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and partially at Cedar Creek). Krick concludes that probably no commander could have controlled the Valley Cavalry successfully in this campaign. These men had been without strong commanders for the entire war. The Valley Campaign required a strong leader for the Cavalry, but no one was available."

by Bill Armintrout at  
<http://theminaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=55919>

## **24th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference November 7-9, 2008 in Clovis, California "Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley"**

Featuring:

**Robert K. Krick, Jeffrey Wert, Jim Stanbery, Peter Cozzens, Evan Jones, Don and Bill Bennett, David Paul Davenport, and Emily and Olivia Moats**, in a one-act play based on Civil War diaries.

- The Brass Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will regale registrants with music of the period on Friday the 7th before dinner.
- A special showing of **Shenandoah** with Jimmy Stewart will be presented in the barely a year old theater/auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday, Nov. 7th at 9 PM.
- An **optional tour** on Saturday the 8th from 9 AM to noon features a tour of the Fresno home of Dr. Meux (portrayed by Charles Baley), an assistant surgeon in the 9th Tennessee Vol. Inf. (CSA) who moved to Fresno after losing his slaves and other valuables as a result of the war, and a tour to the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial and internments of Union Veterans of the War at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery, led by GAR historian Fred Bohmfalk of Elk Grove.
- **Bloody Shenandoah**, narrated by Burgess Meredith, will be shown at approximately 9 PM. Following the Keynote Address after dinner on Saturday the 8th.
- Hundreds of books will be for sale, information about a tour of the Shenandoah Valley in 2009 will be available
- Civil War artifacts and weaponry will be displayed.
- **LODGING:** Comfort Suites (143 Clovis Ave, 559-299-9992) and Best Western Clovis Cole (415 Clovis Ave, 559-299-1547). Hotels in Old Town Clovis have reserved blocks of rooms for West Coast Conference attendees at \$109.00 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference Rate. The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building at Hughes and 6th Street less than two blocks from the two hotels.
- The registration fee of \$175.00, includes six meals (Dinner Friday, Nov. 7th, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday the 8th, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday the 9th).

See [SJVCWRT.org](http://SJVCWRT.org) for more information.

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Civil War Round Table  
P O Box 5695  
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