



# Bugle Calls



## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**Volume 22 Number 5 P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755 May 2014**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2014**

#### **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

##### **Board of Directors**

###### **President**

Michael Green  
847 E. Pleasant  
Tulare, CA 93274  
Phone (559) 688-2134  
E-mail Address: osogreen@aol.com

###### **Vice-President and Programs**

VACANT

###### **Treasurer**

Lisa Peters  
5180 N. Wishon #207  
Fresno, CA 93704  
Phone (559) 224-6134  
E-mail Address: lpeters80@att.net

###### **Secretary and Bugle Call Editor**

Ron Vaughan  
730 E Tulare Ave  
Tulare CA 93274  
E-mail Address: ronvaughan@prodigy.net

###### **Web Master**

Walter Schulze [Gail]  
1432 Locust Ave  
Clovis, CA 93611  
Phone (559) 297-4481  
E-mail Address: wschulze1@sbcglobal.net

###### **Members at Large**

Pattie Spencer  
1548 W Vassar Ave Fresno CA 93705  
Phone (559) 304 8170  
E-mail Address: pds8919@comcast.net

###### **Member at Large & Past President**

Brian Clague (Linda)  
PO Box 116  
Saver Lake, CA 93664  
Phone 559-841-7161 Cell 559-284-4969  
E-mail Address: bclague@netptc.net

Hello all. I hope that this finds you happy and well.

Welcome to our last meeting of the first half of the 2014 year. After this meeting we will go on our summer hiatus. Because of the summer activities in the valley and of course the heat we shut down until September.

We will have our summer get together at the Clagues' in Shaver Lake.

At the present time the date is Saturday July 26. More about this later. We will contact you about the particulars.

I was very happy to see Alex Fabros at our last meeting. Alex has been having health problems and having him back at the meeting was very heartening. Stay well Alex and we hope to see you and your lovely wife at our meetings again.

Speaking of our last meeting, we had a wonderful presentation by Todd Holmeson: Lee's decisions at the battle of Gettysburg. The topic was "General Lee, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING???"

Speaking of Gettysburg and General Lee, I will be traveling back east in the middle of June to be with our

friend General Parker Hills. Parker is putting on a tour for the Blue and Gray Education Society that will cover the retreat from Gettysburg of Lee's army. I am looking forward to the tour, but more importantly I am looking at being around Parker again. I will let you know what I learned from the tour when I get back.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 8, 2014 at the Denny's on Shaw Ave in Clovis. As usual we ask you to get there at 6 P.M. if you are interested in having dinner. We will start our meeting promptly at 7:00 P.M. and should have our program start at about 7:15.

Our speaker for May is John Herberich. He will be talking about the US 4th Calvary, a great regiment, and his years of research. It sounds like an interesting presentation.

This is his biography:

After being discharged from the Navy in 1970, John returned to San Jose State University where he obtained his B.A. and M.A. in History and a Secondary Teaching Credential. It was while doing his student teaching that he met and married the French teacher - Jane, his wife of almost 41 years.

Unable to find a teaching position, John started a real estate career which lasted for over 30 years, as a Broker, owner, and trainer. After retiring, John works part time as a substitute teacher in several of the local high schools - two of which are ranked among the "Top 100 Schools" in the United States.

It was in the mid-1980's when he first became aware that his great-grandfather, 1st Sergeant John Martin Herberich fought in the Civil War. For the past 13 years he has been researching and writing about his great-grandfather's regiment, the 4th United States Cavalry. Last August his book was picked up by a publishing company in Pennsylvania and should be available next year.

One of the things that John didn't include in his bio is that he serves as the president of the South Bay CWRT and was the driving force in helping to fund part of the West Coast Conference which we presented last November. He really puts his money and his actions into things that he believes in. Thanks again John.

We are already into May and we still have many of you on our mailing list who haven't chosen to join the Round Table by paying your yearly dues. The dues are \$35.00/ family/ year. These dues and our raffles at the meeting are the way we keep the Round Table going. Without those

funds we will be unable to bring in speakers from outside of the group.

If a speaker is coming in from out of town it usually costs the Round Table between \$200.00 and \$300.00 for their meal, lodging and a small reimbursement for their gas.

Please get your dues into the group. Thank-you.

Speaking of our raffles at the meeting, Patty has let me know that we are just about out of books on the Civil War. We still have some books on other topics but we do need more material for the raffle. If you have books that you would like to donate to the Round Table, please let me know.

If I don't see you at the meeting, I want to wish you a very enjoyable summer and I will see at the Clagues' in July or at our first fall meeting in September.

Thank you

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

### **SJVCWRT MEETING OF 4/10/14**

**By Ron Vaughan**

1. Fourteen persons were present for the meeting. We still need a person or persons to volunteer to be V.P.
2. Treasurer's Report: Current Balance is \$2,028.
3. Patty reported that Kearney Park re-enactment is scheduled for Oct. 17-19.
4. We voted to attempt to secure a booth for the event.
5. **Our book raffles at each meeting have almost exhausted the supply of CW books. So please consider recycling books or donating new one's acquired at flea markets, or other places.** I picked up a couple of donations for less than \$10 recently at Barnes & Noble. I also found some at used book stores in Cambria.

less than \$10 recently at Barnes & Noble. I also found some at used book stores in Cambria.

**Speaker was Todd Holmes**, who has portrayed General R.E. Lee at many re-enactments and school functions for two decades. His topic was **“General Lee, what were you thinking when you ordered Pickett’s charge?”**

General Lee was sick during this time, but so was almost everyone else at one time or another, but managed to perform. Lee didn’t become stupid, but over came his illness. However there were several other problems to overcome.

Lee had reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia, just before the campaign began. There were many new Corps, and Brigade commanders. Lee tried to increase his army, by stripping troops from the coasts, but the governors complained to President Davis, who blocked them. Thus, Pickett had only 2 or his 5 Brigades.

Stuart’s mission was to screen Ewell’s advance and do reconnaissance. But Stuart thought he could go on a raid around the Union Army. The Army turned out to be bigger and more spread out than he had imagined, so he could not complete his assignment, and was out of touch until the evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lee had laid a perfect trap for the Union Army, but he did not know it, due to lack of recon information. Therefore he ordered his Corps commanders not to bring on a general engagement. When Longstreet’s spy reported that the Army of the Potomac was marching north, he ordered the spread out ANV to concentrate at Gettysburg.

Heath ran into the Union cavalry and some infantry, but he was not the brightest of the generals, and frittered away his brigades with piecemeal attacks. Even so, Lee won the first day, and two Union Corps were shattered. However, Heath’s Corps was pretty much used up too.

Lee saw Cemetery Hill as the key to the battlefield. His scouts and topographical engineers surveyed the terrain, and discovered that there were no Union troops occupying the Round Tops. Therefore he ordered Longstreet to attack from the south, heading up Emmitsburg Road and sweep the ridge leading to Cemetery Hill. At the same time, Ewell was to attack from the north, taking Culp’s Hill and then attack Cemetery Hill from that direction. Neither of these schemes worked out, for reason that need not be cited here.

Todd stated that he did not place a high value on accounts written thirty years after. He relies on reports written by two staff officers, that the plan of attack for July 3<sup>rd</sup> was basically unchanged from that of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Todd opined that Lee believed that Pickett would receive help from renewed attacks by Ewell and Longstreet’s other troops, Mc Laws’ and Hood’s Divisions. All three would meet on Cemetery Hill. However, Ewell’s fight started prematurely, while the other troops seemed to be too exhausted from the previous day’s fighting.

## **CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

### **FROM THE BLUE & GREY LAUGHING**

A Georgia correspondent writes: "One night the General was out on the line, and observed a light on the mountain opposite. Thinking it was a signal light of the enemy, he remarked to his artillery officer that a hole could easily be put through it. Whereupon the officer turning to the corporal in charge of the gun, said: 'Corporal, do you see that light?'

'Yes, Sir.'

'Put a hole through it.'

The Corporal sighted the gun and when all was ready, he looked up and said, 'Captain, that's the Moon.'

'Don't care for that,' was the Captain's ready response, 'put a hole in it anyhow.'"

#### **CIVIL WAR EVENTS 150 YEARS AGO:**

May 5, 1864	Battle of the Wilderness
May 7	Grant is beaten, but advances sidewise to Spotsylvania.
May 5	Butler's Army of the James lands at Bermuda Hundred.
May 8-19	Battle of Spotsylvania
May 27	Battle of Pickett's Mill, GA
May 31	Battle of Cold Harbor

**Sometimes I wonder how many read all of this. If you got this far, call me and 1<sup>st</sup> caller gets free raffle tickets!!! 686-3633**

