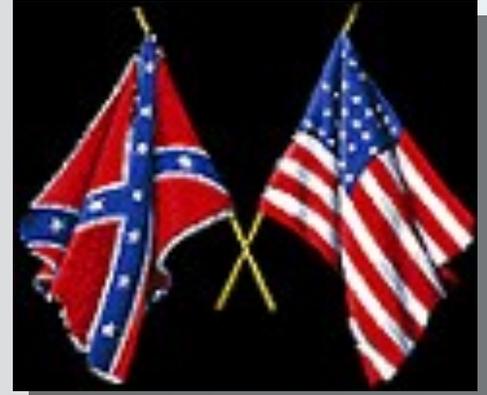




# Bugle Calls



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 22 Number 12 P. O. Box 5695 Fresno CA 93755 December 2014

### SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT December 2014

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are in the process of getting into the holiday spirit for Christmas and New Year.

I know that at the Green household we did something different for Thanksgiving. Our daughter Suzanne got engaged this summer and we celebrated Thanksgiving at the family of our soon to be son-in-law. It was a wonderful evening except for the poor showing that the 49ers put on against the Seahawks. Doesn't look like the 'niners will be doing any post season games.

I have already put up the Christmas tree and have some gifts wrapped and placed under the tree so we are off and running at our household.

Remember that we have our annual Christmas party scheduled for December 11, 2014 starting at 7:00 P. M. at Walt and Gail Schulze's place at 1432 Locust Ave in Clovis. We will break tradition this year and have a build your own taco bar. Please bring a dessert and an exchange gift valued at about \$15-\$20. Also please call Gail at 559 297 4481 and let her know that you will be attending. As usual it should be fun.

We had a good meeting in November. I had the pleasure of putting on the program. I'm sure that Ron

will let you know what went on.

A week later I put on the same program for the North Bay Roundtable in Santa Rosa. I enjoyed repeating the program and while I was there I got to pass out information about our West Coast Conference that our roundtable will be putting on in November 2015. As we have reported before, the conference will be held in Tulare.

I will be contacting other Roundtables and letting them know that I will be willing to put the program on for their group and that way be able to publicize the conference.

Speaking of the West Coast Conference, Brian, Ron and I went to this year's conference in Sacramento in November. Again I am sure that Ron will present what went on in his report. I took pictures of the conference and will send them to Walt to put it in this Bugle Call.

Reminder that this is the end of the year and the dues for 2015 are now due. They are \$35.00 per year for the family. We will start collecting them at the Christmas party.

I hope to see all of you at the Christmas get together.

Yours:

Mike Green

President SJVCWR

### **Pictures of presenters and our members at conference**



Craig Symonds



Ted Savis



Thomas Cartright



Brian Clague



Ron Vaughan



Jim Stansberry



Former Ted Russell award winners

# **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

## **SJVCWRT MEETING OF 11/13/14**

### **By Ron Vaughan**

Meeting opened at 7:00 by President Mike Green. Fourteen persons were present.

Treasurer Lisa reported that our bank balance is \$2,095. She and Mike still need to meet at the bank to change the signature card.

The Kearney Park booth fiasco was discussed. The booth was located farther from the road than any other, tacked on the rear of the Sons Of Confederate Veterans booth. Few persons came by and only \$12 in raffle tickets were sold. (I was lucky to win all three of the wonderful photos that Mike provided for the raffle. I plan to put them in suitable frames and donate them to our convention raffle.) It seems very unlikely we will do a booth next year, unless we receive some sort of guaranteed spot, but that seems highly unlikely to come about.

Patty Spencer announced that a new DVD on the "Sultana" disaster is supposed to be released in April.

Ron spoke about some highlights of the West Coast CWRT con 11/6. More on that below.

Mike Green spoke on Early's 1864 Valley campaign, with focus on the little known battle of Monocacy. His power point featured wonderful pictures of the battle fields he spoke of. These are fields that few CW buffs travel to, so it was great to see them. He began with an explanation of Grant's "chess like" grand strategy of a coordinated attack on the Confederacy on all fronts: Grant would advance on Richmond with Meade's Army of the Potomac, Sigel would clear the Shenandoah Valley (failed, replaced by Hunter who won at Piedmont, and threatened Lynchburg.) Butler was to attack Richmond/Petersburg from Bermuda Hundred (failed), Banks was to march to Mobile, but was diverted to campaign up the Red River to seize cotton stores and form a pro-Union State government, that would help Lincoln in the election. (Banks was defeated, but did succeed in setting up a new Louisiana Government.) Sherman was to march on Atlanta. (Sherman's capture of Atlanta would assure Lincoln's electoral victory.)

As Grant became bogged down in the siege of Petersburg, Lee detached Early to the Valley to prevent the vital rail and canal center at Lynchburg from being captured. Early arrived before Hunter and repulsed him, whereupon Hunter retreated, (due to ammunition shortage) into W. VA.

Now the Valley was open and Lee ordered Early to advance and threaten Washington. The Capitol was very vulnerable, as most of the garrisons of the forts had been sent to reinforce Grant's depleted army. Lee hoped that this action would cause Grant to send troops back to D.C., away from Richmond & Petersburg. This strategy worked, as Grant perceived the danger and detached Rickett's Div. of the VI Corps. These troops traveled relatively quickly by sea to Baltimore and then by rail road towards Harper's Ferry. Sigel was defending the vital rail center there. He had fortified the heights, so that Early was unable to scoop up the town as had happened in previous campaigns. Early continued on towards the Capitol.

Lew Wallace gathered a few thousand new recruits, reinforced by one of Rickett's Brigades, and made a stand at Monocacy, in order to prevent Early from crossing the vital bridges. Wallace had less than 6,000 men, against Early's 14 to 17,000.

Wallace valiantly held out until Confederates crossed at fords and outflanked him. However, he had delayed Early's advance by a day. This proved decisive, as by the time Early's advance guard arrived on July 11<sup>th</sup> on the outskirts of Washington, it was mid-day. His army was still strung out along the road and exhausted. After some skirmishing, Early decided to postpone an assault on Fort Stevens until the 12<sup>th</sup>. But meanwhile, the rest of the VI Corps had arrived, just in time, to reinforce the defenses. The next day, Early realized he had missed his chance. The Capitol was saved! If Early had managed to at least temporarily capture the Union Capitol, who knows what the ultimate impact would have been upon Union resolve to prosecute the war.

The meeting ended with the raffle at 8:00 pm. The CWRT Christmas party will be on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Mr. & Mrs. Schulze's home. Please bring a dessert, and gift valued at \$15 – 20, if you wish to participate in the exchange.

## **CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

### **From the "Blue & Gray Laughing."**

One night in some woods, the picket lines were so close, it turned out that a Union sentry was stationed on one side of a tree, and a Confederate on the other side of the tree!

Eventually, the Reb asked, "How are things on your side of this tree?"

The Yank immediately replied that he was thirsty and wanted to go for water.

"Well go ahead," answered Johnny, "I'll watch both sides till you come back."

# **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

## **2014 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference.**

### **Nov. 7 – 9<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **By Ron Vaughan**

There were over one hundred in attendance from all over Calif. Coming from our Round Table were Dr. Brian Clague, Mike Green, Linda Vaughan and myself.

Due to traffic jams Linda and I missed the Friday dinner, but were just in time to see Ron Perisho's 3D CW slide show Dr. Craig Symonds talk on the Naval Battles of 1864.

On Saturday one of the featured speakers, noted author on Lincoln, Harold Holzer, was absent due to illness. However, Symonds had a copy of one of his talks and filled in with a great talk on Lincoln and the Press. This is an example of a truly great speaker, who is able to step at the last moment and deliver a fine lecture. On Saturday he would speak about General Cleburne's revolutionary proposal to save the Confederacy by freeing the slaves and enlisting them in the Confederate Army. This has been discussed before, but this time Symonds made it clear how little Irish born Cleburne understood the Southern slave owner culture.

Other speakers were Thomas Cartwright, who gave a fantastic description of the battle of Franklin. Many listeners later stated that his description was so vivid, they could visualize the chaotic combat amid the smoke and darkness at the climax of the fighting. On Sunday, Cartwright gave another revealing talk on Bedford Forrest.

Jim Stanberry, in his usual innovative style, compared the 1864 Campaigns of Sherman vs Johnston/ Hood, and Grant vs Lee. By inverting the diagrams of the maneuvers around Atlanta, he demonstrated how they were very similar to those around Petersburg! His analysis was very thought provoking, in terms of the merits of Hood and Johnston.

Finally, Ted Savas had completed extensive research on Colonel Rains and the Augusta Powder works. It is an incredible story of how he built up this powder mill from nothing, and kept it in operation with many innovative ideas. Without it, the Confederacy would have lacked the necessary powder to continue the war.

In addition to listening to the talks, we conversed with many interesting people and ate enjoyable meals. Mike made up flyers advertising our 2015 conference. Many people expressed that they would be coming, and we lined up some speakers willing to present at our event.

## Reminder

Reminder: Our Christmas party is Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. We will have a taco bar and are asking each attendee to bring a dessert to share.

If you plan to join in the gift exchange please bring a gift costing between \$15-\$20.

We have entertainment planned for the evening—hope you enjoy live music that is “a little bit country”.

Please RSVP to Walt or Gail at 297-4481 no later than Dec. 6. (The idea is, if Gail’s gotta cook, she needs to know how much food to prepare.)

The following map is pretty straight forward and the house is extremely easy to find.

We look forward to seeing you all on Dec 11.

