



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2014

Hello all:

Right off the bat, I want to thank Walt Schulze for his outstanding service as our Treasurer. Walt has held that position for many years and has done a fantastic job. He chose not to hold the position on this cycle, but he has agreed to retain the position as web master. Thank you Walt for all that you have done for the Round Table.

With that in mind, I want to congratulate Lisa Peters on her election as the new Treasurer of the Round Table. Lisa has been a long standing member and was willing to step up and take on the position. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

If you didn't make it to our February meeting, you missed an outstanding presentation on railroads presented by Walt Schulze. Walt's knowledge is broad and his power point presentation had some very good information in it.

I had just returned from a trip to Louisiana where I took a tour of the beginning stages of the Red River Campaign of 1864. It was an outstanding tour and I learned a lot from it. I will be working

on a presentation about the campaign and hope to have it ready sometime this year. I keep reviewing the leadership of Nathaniel Banks and have started to rethink my opinion of him. More on that later.

I also traveled to Baton Rouge and to Port Hudson to continue my study of that very important battle. A battle that very few people know about. Again more on that later.

The SJVCWRT sent a check for \$1,000.00 to the Friends of Raymond. We did what we said we would do at the West Coast Conference--and that was any money that we had above and beyond our expenses would go to Civil War site acquisition and interpretation. We have more or less adopted the Friends of Raymond as our program to support. They have done so much to save and interoperate that battlefield with little or no overhead. The money that goes to them goes for the battlefield.

The Sacramento Civil War Round Table have chosen to sponsor the 2014 West Coast Conference. I will include that announcement at the end of my report so that you can mark your calendars for this event. This will mean that the SJVCWRT will sponsor the West Coast Conference in 2015 on November 13 through 15 in Tulare. Ron and I have secured a venue for the conference as well as setting up a food service to take care of. Now to work on getting the speakers.

We have got our speakers for our regular meetings from now until the summer but we still are looking for speakers in the fall and winter. If you are interested, let me know.

Brian went to a Round Table meeting while he was in Arizona and said that they have over 350 members. He will talk about what they are doing to get that type of membership at our meeting this month.

Speaking of the meeting in March, I may not be there. I will have had my second cataract surgery on that day and will have to see if I will be feeling up to taking that long drive up to Fresno. Only time will tell.

I again want to remind you that the dues for the Round Table are due for 2014. Please Please Please get them into us. If you need to send them, send them to me at 847 E. Pleasant Tulare Ca. 93274 and I will make sure Lisa gets them. Without your support, this Round Table will fold.

Now for the information on the 2014 West Coast Conference that will be held in Sacramento.

Hi All,

This is a quick "save the date" kind of message. The Sacramento CWRT has just

accepted the offer of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento to host the 2014 version of the West Coast Civil War Conference. The theme will be "1864" and the fun and learning will start on November 7th (Friday afternoon) with a late afternoon social hour, dinner, and speech. As usual, the activities continue on Saturday with another social hour, dinner, and speech at night. The Conference will continue until Sunday noon when we will all return to our homes. So – Nov 7-9th are the dates to block for Sacramento. We have the commitments of two very well known Civil War historians to provide much of the action over the weekend. Craig Symonds and Harold Holzer will be doing the heavy lifting. We are evaluating, along with them, a new format for them at some time over the weekend. This would be a "conversational" format where Craig and Hal would sit in easy chairs in front of the room and carry on a conversation about the events of 1864 – giving their views on issues beyond just relating the facts. What an innovation this could be!!! There will be other speakers and activities as well and a detailed agenda will be released in the near future. I can tell you that hotel rooms including a hot breakfast buffet will cost \$99 for up to two people per room. Stay tuned for more! For questions, email Paul Ruud at ruud@starband.net, George W. Foxworth at gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net , or Don Hayden at djhbook-lover@yahoo.com .

Crowne Plaza Hotel (a Holiday Inn Hotel)
5321 Date Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95841-2512
916-338-5800
877-504-0054

For reservations, please say Sacramento Civil War Round Table to get the \$99 block of rooms.

Thank you.

Paul Ruud, Don Hayden, and George W. Foxworth
2-26-14

Hoping to see you on the 13th.
Yours
Michael Green
President SJVCWRT

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 2/13/14

By Ron Vaughan

MEETING:

- Fourteen persons were present.
- Walt Schulze presented his last Treasurer's Report: Bank balance as of 2/13/14 = \$2881.76.
- Lisa Peters was present and confirmed that she is willing to take the job of Round Table Treasurer. Her election was confirmed by an unanimous vote.
- Although we do not have anyone to fill the job of Vice President, but Patty has continued to help with lining up speakers:

March –Brian Claque, "Medical Practices at Chickamuaga/Chattanooga,"
April 10th- Todd Holmes: "General Lee, What Were You Thinking?" , May
8th- member of South Bay RT, on a S.C. Regt.

- Mike Green spoke of his recent rip to New Orleans, and a tour of the Red River Campaign, led by Parker Hill. Mike said that most people have a poor opinion of the generalship of Nathaniel Banks, but we forget that his main mission was to bring Louisiana back into the Union, by setting up a State Government and having a Republican Governor installed. The votes from this state helped re-elect Lincoln in '64.
- The status of the Nov. 2014 CWRT convention is not settled. We are set to go, but Sacramento is still hoping to put something together.

PROGRAM:

Walt Schulze presented a talk that complemented his earlier CW rail road lecture. This time he focused on the second half of the war. The numbers of train cars and engines, and their use, had increased greatly from the beginning of the war, especially in the North. This was largely the work of General Herman Haupt, who was appointed in April 1862 to be the head of the new military railroad bureau. He had been a railroad construction engineer, and from then on, he was responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Union Army's railroads. He supervised the reconstruction of damaged tracks, and fortifying bridges that were vulnerable to attack by Confederate cavalry. Under his leadership armored trains were developed, with protected cannon and riflemen to ward off attacks on the trains.

He designed prefab bridges that could be quickly assembled to replace damaged ones. The Confederates sometimes set fire to trains and turned them loose to run

into Union trains or bridges.

Some interesting facts were that after the capture of Chattanooga, the Union set up a manufacturing site to repair tracks and trains. General Sherman trained 10,000 troops to repair tracks, before he began his successful Atlanta campaign. Walt also described the co-operation between the Union naval vessels that would land supplies at points such as Aquia Creek or City Point, where the cargos could then be transferred to trains, for supplying the troops. The use of railroads to provide supplies contributed to the Union victories.

Walt illustrated his talk with many interesting images of trains taken from photos, drawings, and pictures of miniature trains.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing."

"A Canadian newspaper referring to the number of 'sneaks' from the United States who flock into Canada to escape the draft, says: 'They are coming , father Abraham, 500,000 more; but unfortunately for you and us, they are coming the wrong way!'"

EVENTS OF MARCH 1863:

- March 4, 1863 The Confederate States of America adopts the Stars and Bars as its official flag.
- March 12, Nathaniel Banks begins the Red River Campaign (LA)
- March 12, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumes command of the U.S. Armies
- March 14, Banks captures Fort De Russey
- March 15, Moving men and vessels up the Red River, the Union Army occupies Alexandria, LA
- March 16, Nathan Bedford Forrest begins a raid into W. Tenn. & Ky.
- March 17, William Tecumseh Sherman is promoted commander of the Military Division of Mississippi, including the Depts. of Ohio, Tenn., Cumberland, & Ark.
- March 21, Abraham Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada and Colorado to become states even though they don't meet population requirements.
- March 24, Forrest seizes Union City, TN