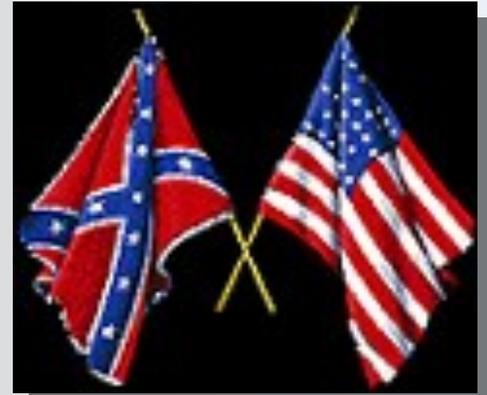




Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2013

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" so said Charles Dickens in his book "A Tale of Two Cities."

You may ask why would I start this report out with this quote?

The West Coast Civil War Conference is over but, boy, did we have some interesting times in getting through with it! First, let me say that Ron and Linda Vaughn, Lisa Peters, and Brian and Linda Clague did a wonderful job of making sure that the conference was a success. Thank you so much to all of them for doing the work.

We got down to Long Beach on Friday November 1, and found out that two of our speakers had been caught up in the LAX mess and couldn't get out of the airport because of the shooting. We were not sure if they were going to make the boat or not. This would have meant that we would be down five talks for the weekend, including the keynote speech.

Due to circumstances beyond our control we had already lost two speakers. I had volunteered to put on a presentation and we had another speaker who was willing to fill the gaps.

They held the sailing until after 8 P.M. and like magic both of our speakers showed up. Between the time I found out about them being stuck and their arrival I must have age about 20 years.

We got started a little late on Saturday morning and the first two speakers ran a little long and had several questions asked about their presentations, so when it came time for my presentation, it looked like my talk would run into the lunch time. I made an executive decision and cut my talk. Again as Dickens said "it is a far far better thing that I do." Besides I was hungry.

Our own Ron Vaughn and Brian Clague did great jobs on their presentations. I was proud to show the conference what outstanding speakers we have right here within our own Round Table.

From what I could ascertain, the conference was a success and the people that came to it left feeling like they had made a good decision about joining us. Now we will check all the bills and see how much money we made or lost on it. If we made some money, we will send that off to a worthwhile Civil War program.

We had a program put on by Ron Vaughn at our October meeting. Ron presented a program about the relations between Mexico and the Union and the Confederacy during the war. There was a great deal of information that many of us were not aware of. Thanks for a great program Ron.

It's hard to believe but it's been two years since the last election of officers for the Round Table. All positions are open, so if you are interested in being an officer of our Round Table you need to do the following.

1. Pay your dues for the 2014 year
2. Inform us in writing of your intentions to run and for which office. The offices open are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, and two members at large.
3. We will have the election at our meeting in January 2014. The term is for two years and will begin directly after the election and run until the election in 2016.

Our next meeting will be on November 14, 2013 and will be held in the Denny's on Shaw in Clovis. If you are interested in having a meal, please come about 6 P.M. The meeting will start at 7 P.M. and our speaker will talk about the Pinkertons at about 7:15. We would love to see you there.

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas party at Walt Schulze's house. It will take place on Thursday, December 12, 2013.

There will be a gift exchange. More about the party in the next Bugle Call.

January will be our annual "show and tell" meeting. So starting getting your topics together.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for all your support and help over the past four years. It has been an honor and a privilege representing you as your president.

Respectfully yours:

Michael Green



A picture of the presenters, some of the most outstanding experts on the American Civil War.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 10/10/13

By Ron Vaughan

- * Fourteen persons were present for the meeting. President Mike reported about 50 were signed up for the cruise conference.
- * Our November 12 meeting will feature Rob Ashly speaking about the Pinkerton Detective Agency in the Civil War.
- * We will have a Christmas Party December 12 at the Schulze home. Bring food or desert and a gift for an exchange.
- * The January meeting will be show and tell, plus election of officers. Prospective candidates should contact Ron V.
- * Treasurer Walt Schulze reported current checking balance is \$5,161. Dues for next year can be paid beginning in December.
- * VP. Patty Spencer reported that she never received any response from the Historical Society to her many requests for the cost of a booth at Kearney Park Re-enactment. This plus a lack of sufficient volunteers, resulted in the decision to not have a booth.
- * The program was a preview of my topic at the conference: "The Other War: France's Mexican Adventure, 1862--1867." The talk began with a section on the background: The causes of the French Intervention in Mexico-- At the end of four years of civil war in Mexico, on March 1st 1861, Benito Juarez was elected President of Mexico. He was the first president to be non-military, and to be a full blooded Indian. Due to the bankruptcy of the country, Mexico suspended payment on foreign debts. The French landed troops, in an attempt to collect debt payments owed by Mexico, and French ambition to carve out a new Empire. Except for the setback at the battle of Puebla, May 5, 1862, France eventually conquered most of Mexico, with President Juarez fleeing north in a carriage. In the Spring of 1864 the French installed an Austrian noble, Archduke Ferdinand Maximillian as Emperor of Mexico.

But by 1865, the French people were war-weary, with nearly 7,000 French soldiers dead from disease and the incessant attacks of the Juarista forces. They would be beaten time and again by the French and Imperial Mexican forces, only to reassemble and attack again at some unexpected place.

Also, with the American Civil War at an end, the U.S. could at last attempt to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, by massing on the Rio Grande an army of 50,000 under General Sheridan, and demanding the French to leave. By the end of 1866, Emperor Napoleon had withdrawn his troops. but Maximillian elected to stay on with his Imperial forces and some European volunteers. However, by May 1867, Maximillian was surrounded, captured and executed.

Part II covered the U.S. role in the war: At first we were hampered by our own civil war, and fear of antagonizing France into recognition or aid to the Confederacy. covertly, money and weapons were sent to Juarez. Later, in 1865 --1867, the U.S. supplied money, weapons, uniforms, artillery, and 3,000 volunteers to help the Republican war effort.

Part III concerned Confederate relations with Mexico and France. The Mexican port of Matamoros was a hole in the Union Blockade, with 300 ships a year shipping cotton to Europe, in exchange for vital supplies, that went to the Trans-Mississippi. The Union Navy could not interfere, due to French warships patrolling the waters.

The Confederates made diplomatic attempts of form an alliance with the Republic of Mexico, and later with Emperor Maximillian, all to no avail. Also, they intrigued to make deals with the governors of several northern states of Mexico, even annex them to the Confederacy, but none were successful. If they had succeeded, it might have changed the balance of power in Mexico, or the Trans-Mississippi theater.

After the end of the American Civil War, the defeated Confederates saw Mexico as a opportunity for a fresh start. A number of notables came to Mexico:

Commander Matthew Maury was the first, followed by Edmund Kirby-Smith, Sterling Price, Alexander Terrell, Jubal Early, Richard Ewell, Simon Bolivar Buckner, and Joe Shelby. They offered their services to the Emperor, and some were accepted, but Maximillian did not want any Confederate units, for fear of antagonizing the United States. Most ex-Confederates settled down in their colony of Carlotta.

Part IV covered France and the Confederacy. When British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston and Napoleon III heard the news of Confederate Secession, they thought it was "Good News" that the American empire was breaking up. In the early years of the war, both nations showed interest in recognition of the Confederacy or at least mediation of the war. But the Union victory at Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation, coupled with the opposition of British abolitionists, put an end to those plans. France still expressed interest in recognition, but would not act without Britain. In December 1864, President Davis secretly proposed to the French and British that the South would give up slavery in exchange for recognition. But this last desperate offer was too late, as by the Spring of 1865, it was obvious that the Confederacy was a lost cause.

In summary, the Confederacy was overcome by the power and tenacity of Lincoln's Union. Similarly, Maximillian's Empire was overcome by the tenacity of Juarez and his people, backed by the US. Emperor Napoleon's dream of a rich commercial relationship with the Confederacy and Imperial Mexico also came to naught.

AFTER ACTION REPORT OF NOV. WEST COAST C.W. CRUISE CONFERENCE

By Ron Vaughan

. The first ever C.W. Cruise Conference was very enjoyable for all, but started off with problems due to the LAX shooter that morning, which resulted in two of our speakers and a few others being locked down at the airport, and traffic jams when a section of the 405 Freeway was sealed off. Mike and I were riding together, and we had thoughts of impending disaster, that our our keynote speakers and others would not make it to the ship's sailing. Fortunately, the sailing was delayed 2 hours, which allowed almost everyone to arrive on board.

. 55 persons were signed up for the cruise & conference. Attendees from the SJVCWRT were Mike Green, Brian & Linda Clague, Lisa Peters, Dolores Torres, Sandy Downs & her friend Emil Deprima, and myself and wife Linda. It was a shame that Wayne Scott & friend Elizabeth, and also, Jim Stanbery were unable to make it on board the ship, we missed them. It wasn't until after 7:00 Friday night, that Craig Symonds & wife, plus Parker Hills, made it to the conference room. We would have had no program that night, except for the fact that Michael Oddenino had a second program on his computer about the 1861 battle of Ball's Bluff. (Even though it was out of our 1863 theme, we welcomed the fill in.) He was very well spoken and entertaining. Michael pointed out that many men who were present at Ball's Bluff would show up at other battles. His Sunday talk on the Gettysburg Address was also, enjoyable and enlightening, and it would have been great to have Wayne there with him.

. A major problem was that Carnival had other users scheduled for the room, so we had to pack up all the many raffle books, 3 statues, 6 pictures, and 3 small quilts (the latter donated by a Deborah Garvin that came from Oregon), two sesquicentennial tee shirts, and 4 patriotic men's ties, each night, only to unpack them and set them up again the next morning. I thank the Clagues and my wife, for assisting me in dragging all this baggage around the ship. My wife also helped a lot with the raffle ticket sales.

. As I stated we all had a good time, and with the smaller sized group, the speakers seemed more relaxed and could better interact with the audience: Professor Craig Symonds' dry humor and abundant knowledge was a hit; General Parker Hills was also full of funny anecdotes (he is a real character!) and his three power point programs featured music, sound effects, and animation (truly amazing!), as well as much interesting information; Richard Hatcher presented detailed descriptions and illustrations of the 1863 ironclad attack and later siege of Charleston; his wife Mary and her friend Jean Hutchinson appeared in CW hoop dresses, and gave three lectures on the view points and roles of women during and after the war; !

unfortunately, when it came time for Mike's talk on Port Hudson, some of the speakers had exceeded their time frames and the schedule was way behind-- so Mike stepped up and "took the bullet" for the team, by courageously canceling his presentation, so that we could go to lunch. I feel sorry about this, as his first attempt with this topic encountered great difficulties with his computer and contrary projector.

. Although we had no separate group dinner, each night smaller groups of 4 to 10 would get together at one of the many dining opportunities, and have a good time eating and conversing. My wife found out that she and one of the participants (Sandy), had gone to High School together! What an amazing coincidence!

. The raffles, plus a donation brought in \$440. Whether we had an overall profit, or not, we will have to wait until all the rebates and bills come in. We hope that we have a profit to donate to battlefield preservation.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing"

"While a sergeant was on picket duty the other day, a contraband passing towards Portsmouth, was asked if she had a pass. 'No Sah,' she replied, 'but I'se got de small-pox.' She was allowed to pass."

