



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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FEBRUARY 10, 2011 MEETING

The SJVCWRT has the privilege of having professor Thomas Mays as our speaker for the February 10, 2011 meeting.

Professor Mays will travel all the way from Arcata where he is the head of the History Department at Humboldt State University.

Professor Mays will make his presentation on Champ Ferguson, a confederate guerilla forces leader in the Cumberland area of Tennessee and Kentucky.

This should be an outstanding presentation about an area of the war that has had very little exposure. Dr. Mays has written a book entitled "Cumberland Blood" Champ Ferguson's Civil War. He will have copies of the book for purchase during the meeting. My guess is that if one was to ask, Dr Mays would more than likely be willing to autograph his book for people that enjoy having autographed books. I am in the process of reading the book. I have found it quite interesting. It answers a lot of questions that I have had about the motivation that made the guerilla bands form. Ferguson was hung at the Tennessee Penitentiary in Nashville on October 20, 1865. He was charged in the murder of fifty-three men, many of which were his neighbors. He was convicted as a "border rebel, guerilla, robber and murderer." His last request was to be carried to Sparta in White County Tennessee so that he could be buried in "pure Rebel soil." It should be a very interesting talk.
Mike Green

MARCH MEETING 3/10/11

At the March 10, 2011 meeting of the SJVCWRT we will reestablish an old and honored tradition for the Round Table, member's presentations.

Here you will get your chance to make a short presentation (10 to 20 min.) our group about a topic that is of interest to you and which you would like to share with the group. If you have a topic that you would like to present, please contact me or Patty so that we can put you on the program.

We will have our usual one hour time to make the presentations. If we don't have people that are willing to make a presentations, then we will have a very short meeting that night. I hope to hear from you soon.
Mike Green

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, February 2011

Hello, my name is Michael Green and I have just had the honor and the privilege of being elected as the new president of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. I want to thank each and every one of you that supported me in my bid for this office. It is now time to go to work.

Patty Spencer was elected as our Vice President; Walt Schulze is our Treasurer and Jonathon Schulze is our Secretary. I believe that we have an excellent set of officers and that they are ready willing and able to move the Round Table forward in the next two years.

I know that I will be filling some very big shoes. but I hope, with your help, that I will be able to carry on the fine work that David Davenport has provided to our Round Table. David isn't going away; he will hold the position of Past President in our executive committee. I personally want to thank David for all of the work that he has done for our Round Table. I will be counting on him to give me advice and counsel as I carry out my responsibilities.

One of the issues that I think is extremely important for our group is to increase our membership. We have a strong nucleus of people that have been involved in the Round Table, but I believe that we need to reach out and find other kindred spirits who want to explore the fascinating story of this war in all of its complexities. If you have any suggestions as to how to increase our membership, please contact me with your suggestions. [My email and phone number are found at the beginning of this news letter]

Speaking of increasing membership, we have just about outgrown our meeting place and many of you have been concerned about that issue. At this point I see it as an issue of economy of scale. We have a situation where members and guests can come to our meeting and choose whether or not they have dinner. Dinner can be ordered off of the menu and that gives the members an option as to what they want and how much they want to pay for their dinners. At the same time, we have had problems with the size of the room and the speed with which service that is provided. When we have a nice sized group, we have found that the meals do not come out in a timely manner. . This has presented itself as a problem. If, on the other hand, we are locked into a meeting place where there is a set price and a set menu, the Round Table is responsible for making sure we have a guaranteed number of people having dinner. If that number isn't met, then the Round Table is responsible for paying for the rest of the required meals . We just don't have the funds to be able to cover that expense.

Some have suggested moving our meetings out of Fresno to Selma. At this point I think that a move to Selma would hurt the organization more than help it. Too many of our members would find it difficult or almost impossible to make that drive. I believe that we would lose some of our most faithful members if we made that move. I need your suggestions and help as to what we should do about this situation. We have several other housekeeping issues that have come up but I will not go into them

now. I will leave that for a subsequent message.

In short, I am proud to be your new president and am looking forward to serving you to the best of my abilities.

Thank you

Michael Green

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 1/13/11

By Ron Vaughan

Our first meeting of the year featured a large crowd of 31 persons, taking up almost all available seating. It was good to see that the group included spouses that do not often attend. The first order of business was election of officers. There was much discussion about who was entitled to vote. Does a "Family Membership" allow only one vote, or each member of the family to vote? The majority of raised hands determined that the latter case would prevail. It was a moot issue for the most part, as a number of the "visiting wives" declined to vote. Anyway, the final count of the secret ballots determined that the new officers are: President, Mike Green, V.P. Patty Spencer, and running unopposed, Treasurer Walt Schulze, and Secretary Jon Schulze.

Our speaker was Mike Green who presented images of his recent trips to the Fredricksburg Battlefield, focusing especially on the "Slaughter Pen" portion of the field. This latter area is seldom visited, less written about, and often misunderstood. In addition, most of his pictures were taken at the same time of year as the battle, which gives a different view, than during the green leaves of Summer. We now have a clearer idea of what the "Slaughter pen" looked like. Some of his images were of areas that are difficult to find and on private land, such as the area of the south-most pontoon bridges. Also, he included several pictures of reconstructed pontoons. Finally Mike took pictures of a house on the battlefield, which belonged to the ancestors of one of our members, Henry Howison!

Most of you are familiar with the battle, so I will not repeat this information, except for some highlights: Mike's research revealed that the Fredricksburg campaign plan was developed in a meeting between Burnside, McClellan, and a representative general from Halleck. It was a good plan to out-manuever Lee, but failed due to the tardy appearance of the vital pontoon trains. Mike believes Halleck is to blame for not co-ordinating this.

Another piece of information that was new to me, was that as Burnside realized he had lost the element of surprise, he attempted an alternate plan, by marching south, to cross at Shinker's Neck. Unfortunately, some of Jackson's men showed up before the Union troops could cross.

Mike stated the little known fact that the attack on Marye's Heights was not supposed to be the main event of the battle. Rather the Union left wing was the main attack, and the one with the best chance of success. Things went wrong due to a horse slipping on the icy roads! Franklin's aid, James Allen Hardee, was late delivering the attack orders to the generals, due to the problems of his horse. The result was that of 60,000 troops, only Meade's Division made the assault, belatedly supported by Gibbon's Div. Nevertheless, they almost broke through a weak spot in Jackson's line.

After the war the Confederate soldiers that fought in this action, built a pyramid monument to the many friends killed in the area of the "Slaughter Pen". Ironically, today's tourists refer to the marker as "Meades' pyramid!"

Minuetes of Meeting on January 13, 2011

Meeting begins 7:30 PM

Voting for 2011-2013 officers begins

Jonathon gives meeting minutes of December 9th 2010

Walt gives treasurers report with a balance of \$1820.03

Mike Green gives his presentation on Fredericksburg

New President Mike Green

New Vice President Patty Spencer

Meeting adjourned 9:10PM

Respectfully submitted

Jonathon R Schulze

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